

## Petersfield Town Council

### Notes from a Meeting of the Allotment Association and Petersfield Town Council held at the Town Hall at 10am on Thursday 21st September 2017

**Present:** Cllr Mrs L Farrow (Chairman of Grounds Committee)  
Mr D Budd (Senior Groundsman)  
Miss M Cross (Office Administrator)  
Mrs V Harvey (Allotment Association)  
Ms A Carling (Allotment Association)

The following points were discussed:

#### Rubbish/Compost Bins

There are currently 4-5 compost bins in the corner to the far right of the main gate (see attached map), these are being used as a general dumping place for waste and it was agreed that the Grounds Team should remove these sometime over the winter months to prevent this happening. Ms Carling advised that a plot holder had indicated that he might repair the compost bins but she had asked him to contact us, if this was something he definitely wanted to do.

#### Shed

It was agreed that the broken shed located next to the fence to the far right of the main gate (see attached map), should be removed but before doing this, The Council would put up a sign for plot holders to remove anything they wanted. The Senior Groundsman also confirmed that once the shed was removed, the fence behind may need repairing.

#### Path Maintenance

Ms Carling advised that the Allotment Association were very pleased with the standard of path maintenance.

#### Potential Other Services

The Senior Groundsman advised that there hadn't been any further developments regarding the potential other services discussed at last year's meeting but a rotavation service may be something that the Council could consider offering in the future, for an additional fee. However, this would be dependant on the availability of the Grounds Team and machinery.

Ms Carling confirmed that she will investigate to see if this would be of interest to members and then let us know.

### North Gate and Fencing

Mrs Harvey asked if anything could be done to the North Gate regarding the gap at the bottom, as rabbits could get in there. The Senior Groundsman confirmed his team would aim to reinstate the ground underneath the gate during the coming winter months. Mrs Harvey also advised that a plot holder had already mentioned to the Allotment Association that the gate was difficult to open at times. The Senior Groundsman advised that removing the wire could possibly make opening the gate easier, however, all agreed that it would be better if the wire remained for the time being to stop deer entering. The Senior Groundsman confirmed that he would explore options regarding this gate.

### Fallen Tree

Ms Carling advised a tree had fallen in the area at the bottom end of the allotments near the Kimbers estate and asked if the Grounds Team could take a look at the fence there as it may need attention. The Senior Groundsman agreed to investigate this.

### Main Gate

Both Ms Carling and Mrs Harvey had received feedback that the Main Gate at Tilmore was difficult for some plot holders to open because of the sharp incline of the slope, particularly for those entering in a mobility scooter or car. They wondered if the gate could be moved in a bit. The Senior Groundsman advised that as all plot holders have been reminded to keep the gate shut at all times for security, this had become more of an issue. He further confirmed that this matter would need to be referred on to the Grounds Committee to consider as it would be subject to budget and other priorities.

*Cllr Mrs L Farrow arrived at 10.32am*

### Allotment Association Membership

Ms Carling advised that the Allotment Association had funds but unfortunately as not all the plot holders were members, they couldn't put any funds towards improvements at Tilmore, like for instance the work on the Main Gate or additional Water Tap, mentioned by Mrs Harvey. The Chairman and Senior Groundsman confirmed that any work carried out there should be paid for by the Council and not by the Allotment Association

Mrs Harvey raised the question as to whether membership to the Allotment Association could be made compulsory to new plot holders. One of the benefits of membership that could be emphasised would be it included public liability insurance cover. The Chairman confirmed that the Council couldn't impose this and

that all Council land had public liability insurance, excluding personal liability insurance.

#### Allotment Association AGM Meeting

Ms Carling invited members of the Council to attend their AGM Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 7.30pm at the Half Moon, Sheet.

#### Padlock Code Changes

The Senior Groundsman confirmed that the Padlock Code for the gates had recently been changed again. The Office Administrator confirmed that everyone should have received notification of this change by email or post and further confirmed that 3 notices had also been displayed at the Allotments 1½-2 weeks before change, advising of this and asking plot holders who hadn't received notification, to ring the Council office.

#### Plots Becoming Available and Waiting List

The Office Administrator confirmed that 5 plots had recently been given up with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October and that new plot holders were being found for these from the current waiting list, which currently has about 20-22 people.

*The meeting was closed at 11.27 am*