

Agenda Item: 8.6
Report to: Amenities Committee
Date: Wednesday 12th May 2021
Subject: Creation of a constituted group
Summary: Allotment Society

The Committee is:

To consider the possible formation of an allotment user group to manage the allotments on behalf of the council.

1. Motion

- 1.1 To consider the possible formation of an allotment user group to manage the allotments on behalf of the council.

2. Background

- 2.1 When the allotments were first allocated it was with the idea that the plot holders would form a constituted allotment society and run the site themselves.
- 2.2 In February 2016 a meeting was held to discuss this item and the following was agreed:-

"The forming of an allotment society - After much discussion it was agreed that a further meeting be arranged so that more allotment holders can attend and meet to discuss whether they would like to form an allotment group and generally get to know one another. It was agreed that the Parish Council would book a room at the Community Centre for a further meeting but not run the meeting."

- 2.3 At a later meeting, allotment holders formed the Allotment Interest Group who would liaise with the council on behalf of allotment holders but they did not want to form a constituted group with a treasurer etc.

3. Allotment Interest Group

- 3.1 The Allotment Interest Group noted the above item on the agenda and wished to inform councillors of the following:-

“In advance of the 12 May meeting, I thought it would be useful to highlight some of the work that the Allotment Interest Group (AIG) already carries out to help manage the Allotment Site.

Allotment Interest Group (AIG): Examples of Work Carried Out to Manage the Allotment Site

- Grass cutting
 - Nominated Plot Holders trim the grass paths regularly
 - Strimmer donated by AIG member
 - Strimmer cord and fuel paid for by AIG members
- Communal Shed and Plot
 - Promoting sustainable gardening through recycling of plots, materials and tools, and plant and produce swapping
 - Installation of shelving, using donated materials
 - Make-Over of the Communal Plot, including levelling the ground and improving drainage through aeration and top dressing, digging a flower bed for the planting of flowers to attract pollinating insects (work in progress)
 - Planning and fundraising to install rainwater harvesting facilities
 - Provision and maintenance of a combination padlock for the Communal Shed
- Helping to manage neglected plots during COVID Lockdown:
 - Strimming, weeding, disposal of waste material, in consultation and with permission of the Plot Holder
- Plot Clearance: Re-cycling of Sheds, materials, tools and plants
 - In consultation and with permission of the outgoing Plot Holder, through our Facebook Group and word-of-mouth
 - In collaboration with Kings Hill Parish Council, where permission to enter a vacated plot was granted for a specific time window
- Fundraising and action to improve Allotment security
 - Acquisition of dummy CCTV cameras
 - Fundraising to install CCTV warning signage and dummy cameras
 - Provision of detailed plan-of-works for the Parish Council/Liberty (decision pending at April 2021)

You will note that there is already **much useful and constructive communal activity to manage the site**, which I believe it would be helpful for the Councillors to be aware of during their discussion on the 12th May. However, I also believe that there is scope to improve communications and ways-of-working with the Parish Council that could benefit all, but I shall await the outcome of the meeting.

Decision Required:

To consider the possible formation of an allotment user group to manage the allotments on behalf of the council.

Contact Officer: Georgina Jackson, Deputy Clerk
Date 4th May 2021