

CHRISTOW PARISH COUNCIL ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD ON 8TH AUGUST, 2023

PRESENT

Henry Tucker **HT**  
Penny Stevens. **PS**  
Jane Baker **JB**  
Tom Archer **TA**

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND MINUTE TAKER

It was agreed that **HT** would be chairman and **PS** minute taker

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

**PS** and **JB** are both allotment holders

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE COMMITTEE

All acknowledged, and accepted.

OPEN DISCUSSION OF MATTERS RELATING TO THE ALLOTMENTS

**PS** - Several allotment holders had asked what the rules were relating to the erection of sheds, greenhouses and poly tunnels. **TA** responded saying that 6' X8" was the maximum size allowed and no consent was needed from the Parish Council if it was replacing like for like. For new sheds the Parish Council should be contacted for approval.

**JB** - Could the abandoned metal shed on allotment 9 be used as a communal shed, it was agreed it could if removal could be arranged.

**PS** - Would out of use allotments 17,18,19,20 be brought back into use if needed. **TA** agreed they would.

General discussion about the poor state of the allotments with some not having been tended for many years. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would send out letters to allotment holders after 1 year if they were not used, to ascertain whether they wanted to keep them and inform allotment holders that they must be tended or would be returned to the Parish Council.

The allotments taken out of use for the proposed cemetery extension are very overgrown and had only been strimmed once this year causing problems with weed infiltration and seed dispersal into other allotments. **TA** replied that the proposed cemetery extension would be discussed at the September meeting of the Parish Council and Planning Permission applied for. Tenders would be put out for clearing the site. **PS** and **JB** asked that mature trees and hedges could be incorporated into the proposed Cemetery extension to enhance biodiversity and make a pleasant environment, **TA** replied that he thought not and new tree planting would be undertaken.

More allotment holders are needed to reduce the number of vacant plots and **TA** agreed that Parish Council would discuss at the September meeting whether to open the allotments to residents who lived in the Teign Valley area or just confine it to Christow residents. Until this was decided no further advertising could be undertaken. **PS** felt that a lot of new residents were not aware of the availability of allotments.

**HT** - to look into having wood chip delivered to the allotments for communal use, he would post on the Christow Community WhatsApp group.

**PS** - It was proposed and agreed that an Allotment WhatsApp group would be set up to allow the allotment holders to keep in touch with one another and foible arrange social events, seed/plant swops etc

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING. - 12TH OCTOBER, 2023 AT 19:00 HRS, AT THE TEIGN HOUSE INN**