**MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th August 2014 at the Marshfield Village Hall, commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Committee - Jo Powell, Anthony Quilter, Ken Honey

In attendance: Peter Matthews, John Lucas, Henry Williams

Apologies: Ian Thomas

1. JP welcomed everyone and ran through previous minutes.
2. JP announced that she had secured the grant of £2500 from Newport City Homes and that the money went into the MCC account today, it was agreed that Jo has done very well in securing this money.

The situation was summarized regarding the communal plot and other projects. Now the funding was in place we have 3 months to complete the works.

 There are 3 quotes all broadly similar:

South Wales Turf £4200

L & R Landscapes £3500

Castleton Turf £4000

It was previously agreed in a MCC meeting that the Council would match any grant given.

Jo is waiting on more information from Andy Price of SWT, he has been very helpful in giving advice.

It has been agreed that we will (and have to) proceed with the communal bed project, probably with L&R (Ken will talk to them).

This should leave approx £2000 for the gates and fitting (when VAT has been removed).

1. Over-grown plots, letters these have been sent:

**No 7 Adrian Morgans**: he has responded and promises to improve his plot, it was agreed to re-look at his plot at end of Dec, he also has been granted permission for a shed (which means he wants to stay)

**No16 Elliot Palmer :** again responded and has made a big effort, wants to only keep half his plot

**No 21/22 Graham Russell**: Has made a start and has been given until Dec to sort out and repair his shed

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Agreed that an improvement letter must be sent to No 23 Tim Rogers (from Clerk of the Council please) as he has ignored a friendly word and e-mail from JP

It was commented (by a few) that the letter we sent out was a bit harsh and was possibly misconstrued by some.

We apologise for this, as this was not the intention and do not want to upset existing tenants. The biggest problem we have is over-grown plots and the neighboring plot-holders suffering, with weeds and brambles.

1. Waiting list and spaces, Ken only has one person on the waiting list now and has two half plots:

Plot 51 Fiona Francesca now wants to share

Plot 16 Elliot Palmer wants to share

It was agreed that we should allow non-Marshfield residents to have a plot if required, as we are concerned with a minimal waiting list, and lots of people who are struggling with their plots. We need more people on the sites and an active waiting list with people keen to get digging.

Ken will look at possible adverts in newsagents etc.

1. Maintenance of sites. Again raised that we need someone (or a company) that we can call upon to look after the communal area, trim the hedges, cut the verges etc. No decision made but Ken to talk with L&R again. Mike Atkins name was also mentioned as a possible candidate.
2. AOB - JP announced that her long-term plan for the Church Lane site was to widen the access road, this would enable cars to pass easily and have deliveries of manure and such like. This would entail taking roughly 1 metre from the end of each plot. (Major obstacles are some big wooden composters people have built and a shed)

Jo also wanted it mentioned that we now have a Facebook page: Marshfield Road & Church Lane Allotments, and has encouraged people to “like” her page. AQ pointed out that most of the allotment holders (are like him) too old for this “modern stuff”..!

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Next meeting to be announced (probably October)

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