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The Village Hall
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CHIPPERFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

ALLOTMENT MINUTES

The Minutes of the Allotment Meeting. The meeting was held on the 8th July 2024 at 7 pm in The Small Hall The Common, Chipperfield WD4 9BS

Councillors present: Cllr Heaphy, Cllr Foxall, Cllr Paton, and Cllr Hinton
Also present: Mrs U Kilich Clerk to the Council 9 members of the public.

1. Welcome & Fire announcement.

The Chair, Cllr Heaphy detailed of safety and fire arrangements should the building need to be evacuated.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies received from
Cllr Cassidy and Cllr Flynn sent their apologies of absence.

3. Minutes To approve the minutes of the 3rd October 2023 (DRAFT Copy sent)

Resolved, proposed by Cllr Hinton, seconded by Heaphy to approve the Minutes of 3 October 2023. Unanimously agreed.

4. Chairman's report

Cllr. Heaphy reported that the CPC experienced a deficit of £319 for the fiscal year 2023/24. Several factors contributed to this deficit, with a significant one being the weekly work carried out by Sunnyside Rural Trust.

Looking ahead to the current fiscal year, 2024/25, Cllr. Heaphy highlighted that a rent increase is inevitable due to forecasted expenses, such as the hedges which are cut every two years. The Clerk reported that four quotes have been received for the hedge cutting services. The Council will review these quotes and choose the best option available.

5. To review rent for the allotments

Cllr. Heaphy emphasized that the current year's budget must account for the previous year's deficit of £319. This necessitates measures such as increasing allotment rent and possibly reducing the hours allocated to Sunnyside Rural Trust.

The tennis club rent was increased from £500 to £600 in the fiscal year 2023/24. It has been suggested that CPC should review this rent every three years, contingent upon discussions between CPC and the Tennis Club. The rent increase should fall in line

6. Feedback from Allotment Holders on Sunnyside Rural Trust (SRT)

The overall feedback from allotment holders regarding Sunnyside Rural Trust (SRT) has been positive. However, it was noted that SRT had taken on tasks beyond their remit. The Clerk confirmed that this message has been communicated to the SRT site manager.

7. To update members on the inspections of the allotments

The Clerk reported that an allotment inspection took place, and those with no sign of cultivation will receive an email.

8. To discuss deer fence – Cllr Heaphy reported that deer fence will be costly, however, CPC will consider other ideas, and obtain quotes.

9. To discuss theft on the allotment – there were sheds broken into, however, no items were taken from the allotment. One member, not present at the meeting wrote to the Clerk stating that her equipment from the shed has been stolen.

10. Allotment accounts for 2023/24 – four quotes for the hedge cutting have been received, one being particularly low. The Clerk will meet the A Whitewood to see if the area that needs to be cut back is within the quote.

Q&A

Open Forum

1. Need for Staking the Car Park; It was proposed by an allotment holder to ensure safe and organised use of the car park during the winter months.
2. School Plot: The plot that the school look after has not been cultivated, the Clerk will follow up on to see if the school wishes to keep the allotment.
3. Tennis Club: It was proposed if the tennis club rent review can be three years as opposed to every five years. CPC will write to the Tennis Club.

The meeting concluded at 19.44