

**MINUTES OF THE HARDEN PARISH COUNCIL**  
**ALLOTMENTS PROJECT TEAM HELD ON 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 IN HARDEN MEMORIAL HALL**

**Present:** Cllr Gerwyn Bryan  
Cllr Gina Thompson  
Ann Leetham  
Jim Leetham  
Chris Ockerby  
Ken Eastwood (Clerk)

**1. Apologies for Absence**

None received.

**2. Introductions**

Cllr Bryan opened the meeting and welcomed those present.

He described that the Parish Council was under a duty to provide allotments in Harden in light of the requisite number of people petitioning the Council.

He shared a high level project plan, previously prepared by the Parish Council.

**3. Funding**

Residents asked about costs and Cllr Bryan stated that the Parish Council would be required to pick up the costs, including for the acquisition of any land. He explained how the Parish Council was funded, through a local precept collected by Bradford Council with the Council Tax.

The current precept is set at £25 per Band D property in Harden and this generates £20,475 which is paid to the Parish Council by Bradford. The Parish Council sets its budget annually and when new projects are proposed the budget, and hence local precept, can be increased.

Notwithstanding these funding arrangements, the Parish Council can explore opportunities for grant funding projects and is also able to borrow money to finance the purchase of land.

**4. Land**

There was a general discussion about availability of suitable land.

Land can be obtained in a number of ways including by purchase, taking a tenancy or lease, and compulsory purchase.

It was suggested that Harden Horticultural Society could possibly get involved. There had been a suggestion that they may own some land in Harden.

### **Actions**

Residents to make enquiries and establish contact with the Society. Cllr Bryan to see if there is a website.

Ann Leetham mentioned land owned by Bradford Council behind Cuckoo's Nest that is waterlogged and wouldn't be suitable.

Other land was mentioned below St Ives. Four fields owned by Bradford Council, currently leased that might be worth further exploration.

Mention was made of land at Moor Edge and also on the edge of Harden Moor, by the car park on Keighley Road, where an old stone monument had an inscription referring to Harden's Allotments Society.

Cllr Bryan referred to information previously obtained from Bradford Council identifying all assets held in Harden.

**Action:** Cllr Bryan to share asset details at the next meeting.

The Clerk proposed contacting Bradford Council's Estates Department to assist in the identification of land.

### **Action**

The Clerk to write to Bradford Council's Estates Department.

## **5. Plots & Facilities**

Residents asked about standard allotment sizes and numbers.

It was noted that a full plot could be too large for some users. A mixed provision may be required.

### **Action**

Chris Ockerby to research allotment sizes.

The Clerk mentioned community gardens and Incredible Edible – slightly different approaches that could be considered in parallel as the project progresses.

It was stated that there could be some opposition to loss of visual amenity and this would have to be considered in the design and layout.

Other issues to consider would include the provision of huts, greenhouses, water supply and parking availability.

Jim Leetham asked if there was an expert who would be able to look at a piece of land and determine if it was suitable for use as an allotments site.

Ann Leetham mentioned a TV Gardening Celebrity who lived in Bingley.

**Action**

*Ann Leetham to find contact details and enquire if the celebrity would be willing to act as an advisor or otherwise get involved.*

Other allotment sites were discussed.

**Actions**

*Ann Leetham to visit allotments in Shipley and the Clerk to provide details on numbers and sizes from Oxenhope.*

**6. Project Team**

Residents asked about representation on the project team. It was agreed that a small team would be appropriate but that an additional interested resident would be welcome.

**Action**

*Residents to ask other people who have expressed interest in allotments whether they would wish to join the project team.*

**7. Next Meeting**

Agreed that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018 at 7.30pm in Harden Memorial Hall.