

Row Gardens Allotment Group - Rippingale

Meeting between RGAG and the Parish Council Wed 15 Feb 06 @ the Bull Inn, Rippingale

Present –Iain Middleton, John Warman, Pauline Warman, Clr Melvyn Patrick, Clr Mike Exton, Clr John Bass.

The meeting was to discuss the questions and points from our letter to Rippingale Parish Council of 6 November 2005, our request for further land dated 6 December 2006, and further questions to be put to the council that could not be answered from our meeting of 9 January 2006:

Outstanding Questions from letter to PC dated 6 Nov 05:

- 1 *Is the PC retaining overall responsibility for the allotment field including the access tracks, parking, hedge and dike etc?*

The 'responsibility' of the land remains outstanding.

The PC was concerned that it would be left with financial responsibilities that would be a drain on the village council tax.

The RGAG made it clear that with only 6 or 12 members the financial implications that go with the responsibility were not viable, however when or if the group became large enough it would be happy to take on the allotments as a 'self governing body' and the responsibilities that go with it.

- 2 *Does the PC want RGAG to take on the administration of the allotments, collecting rents etc, if so to what extent? (Formal agreement)*

The PC would want the RGAG to take on all the administration of the land allocated for allotment use, including un-let plots, parking/turning area etc.

The PC would only charge rent based on the let plots.

The rent to the PC would include underlying charges, eg rates etc.

The RGAG would collect the rents and pay them to the PC as one payment at the start of the financial year.

The total rent per plot to the end user would include RGAG membership and administration costs.

Re 1 above a clause could be included in the formal agreement for the RGAG to become self governing when membership reached an agreed level, eg 30 plots let (would have to be agreed).

The formal agreement would have to be approved by the relative solicitors.

- 3 *Does the PC want RGAG to continue with promoting allotments?*

Yes

- 4 *Turning and Parking Areas – do we have the official blessing of the PC to undertake the work already started? (Although the PC has been kept informed of our intentions and progress no objections have been made to date)*

Yes, but the work carried out must remain the responsibility of the RGAG until such time it is professionally approved.

- 5 *Will the PC apply for an LCC grant under "...Recreational Projects" to get the initial parking area properly laid? (Currently the RGAG does not have a bank account so it can't apply itself – we are willing to undertake the "paperwork/admin" for the PC)*

Yes but the RGAG will have to undertake all the work involved in putting the grant application together.

Letter to PC dated 6 December 2005:

- 1 *Return of further land to use as allotments?*

PC to approach the farmer.

Further Questions to the PC:

- 1 *What will the rent for the individual plots be? (Taking into consideration that there is no water, nor hard standing other than that provided by the current "allotment holders")*

The RGAG held firm that the rent should not exceed that of other local allotments, and take into account the facilities supplied.

Rent to be agreed.

- 2 *Will the erection of sheds on the plots be permitted, and if so what size (maximum)?*

This will be subject to planning regulations/permission.

It was suggested that a communal building could be provided.

- 3 *Will bonfires be allowed on the plots, and if so what restrictions will apply?*

Bonfires will be subject to current local regulations. It was suggested that only material/rubbish from the allotments should be allowed to be burnt.