

**Friends of Ascott Allotments**  
**Minutes of Winter General Meeting**  
**Date of Meeting: Saturday 15 December 2018 at 3pm**

**Present:**

David Johnson  
Ian Symonds  
Elizabeth Adams  
Helen Marriage  
David Parsons  
Steve Craik  
Safi Ferrah  
Maggie Mizzi  
Clive Herring

**Apologies:**

Paul Carter  
Jean Marc Callant  
Tom Alley  
Tom Challenor  
Jane Challenor  
Andre Harbert  
Lynne Casey  
Jane Hodgkin  
Chris Hutchings  
Anthony Watkins  
Michelle Matthews

**1. Minutes of Summer General Meeting on 16 June:**

The minutes were accepted as accurate record of the meeting.

**2. Matters arising from Summer General Meeting**

**2.1 Padlocks**

It was thought that changing the locks could stop theft of produce but Pitshanger have not found an improvement after changing their locks.  
To be discussed in Spring.

**2.2 Getting Involved**

Proposal to involve plot holders more in site management:  
Zone friends / looking after hedges and paths. Good idea in theory.  
To be discussed again in Spring.

**2.3 Raised beds**

Will start again in the new year. Now that we have electricity we could get a kango hammer to help with this project.  
First working party of new year on 5<sup>th</sup> January could start with this.  
Paul Carter had also suggested clearing the eastern path.

**2.4 New tenancy agreement - September 2018**

New rules have been introduced by the Council – all the same except:  
1) Rule 5 - if a plothead is issued with 3 improvement notices within 3 years, the tenancy may be terminated  
2) Rule 7 - all paths should be at least 1 metre wide  
3) Rule 10 - all structures on individual plots must be approved before construction begins. This includes fences.  
4) Rule 15 - persistent complaints from local residents about inappropriate bonfires "are likely to lead to a blanket ban on all site bonfires".

In addition, "an allotment tenant has a legal duty of care to others, requiring that the plot is maintained and used safely. You could be sued for failing in this duty."  
Discussion whether there should be a sign on the gate warning of hazards and how children should be expected to behave on the site.

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**2.5 Composting toilet**

This has now been installed in the Orchard and we were shown inside.  
Operation and maintenance to be discussed in Spring.

The meeting was ended due to inclement weather.

**Next Meeting:** will be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2019, at 3pm in the Orchard.