



2020

Happy New Year to everyone, and here's to looking forward to a productive year!

Committee membership

The following people were elected to the Committee at the AGM held last November:-

Peter Dennison, James Palmer, Sandy Parrott, Rob Pearson, David Eustice, Maria Youngs and Chris Rigden.

Peter was elected Chairman, James agreed to continue as Treasurer and Chris as Secretary.

Membership Cards

As usual when you have paid your membership fees James will leave your membership card in the noticeboard for you to collect. We will only issue them if we have received your fees so this is a reminder to pay for those of you who haven't yet done so. One membership card will be issued per plot with only the plot number shown on the card.

The cards can be used to get a 10% discount at Luff Garden Centre in Headley on growing related products (sorry, but not cakes from the shop!).

Locks and Gates

We will be changing the code on the central gate during March. James will let you know when this is done and the new code. Please do not pass the new code on to anyone who does not need to go onto the site to attend a plot.

The vehicle gate on the right now has a key operated padlock and the key for this can be found (and replaced after use) in the notice board.

Fees for Plots

At the AGM it was agreed not to increase the fees for plots this year. It was considered that an increase was not necessary, as the high expenditure incurred for mole control and water during 2018 was not repeated during 2019. Hence the financial situation improved during 2019.

Water

Water is metered and we keep an eye on the amount of water used in order to monitor the cost. If you are aware of a water leak or damaged taps please notify one of the Committee members as soon as you can.

The water supply will be switched on around the end of March (so long as there are no severe frosts predicted). It is usually switched off at the end of October.

Please remember that you can use hoses with sprinkler attachments, but they must be hand held and not left unattended.

Rabbits and Allotment Gates

As a reminder the following message was sent to all Allotment plot holders earlier this year.

As you know, rabbits can be a problem - they like plants and vegetables as much as we do. At the Allotments our main defence is to not let rabbits get onto the site. We do this by having a rabbit (and deer) proof fence around the site and by regularly using a rabbit repellent spray around the outside of this fence. The sprays we use do not harm the rabbits (or humans) or plants. They contain scents which rabbits do not like such as garlic, petrified eggs, bone meal or the smell of their predators and so the rabbits tend to keep well away from areas treated with these sprays.

The points of weakness in the rabbit proof fence are, of course, the gates. Hence Committee asks that all plots holders make sure the gates are closed immediately they have passed through them (both on entering and leaving the site).

The vehicle gate providing access to the right hand site of the site has a rabbit board which fits along the bottom of the gate when the gate is closed to stop rabbits getting under the gate. It has been reported that this board has not always been put back in place after someone has used the gate and rabbits have got onto the site.

Please note that this board must be replaced in the correct orientation so as to not leave a gap between it and the gate which rabbits can get through.

Please also note that a new policy No 15 has been adopted strictly prohibiting the use of poison to kill rabbits.

Rules and Policies - Updates

The AGM in November agreed to update to the Associations policies. The significant additions to the policies are as follows:

Policy No 2 (Vehicles on site) - Vehicles are only permitted within the allotment garden area for the purpose of dropping off or removing large/heavy items. Vehicles and trailers should only enter the site via the wide vehicle gate and drive up the right hand side of the site to plots to help reduce the rutting on the central path.

For plots on the left hand side, vehicles can park in the car park or on the central common area and materials moved to plots in wheelbarrows.

If it is not physically possible for a plot holder to use a wheelbarrow or carry material to their plot, then the central path may be used for vehicles with the express prior permission of a Committee Member.

Policy No 15 (Use of poisons) - The use of poisons to kill rabbits or birds is strictly prohibited. Humane deterrence and traps may be used.

Policies No 16 (Eligibility to have a plot at Kingsley Allotments) - People from Kingsley and the surrounding areas (up to about 6 miles away) can apply to rent a plot on the site and a waiting list is kept.

Policy No 17 (Priority for allocation of plots) - If a plot becomes available then plots are offered to people who have been on the waiting list longest, subject to the following priorities.

1st priority: new applicants who live in Kingsley

2nd priority: new applicants who live in the surrounding areas

3rd priority: existing plot tenants

A tenant may not rent more than 2 full size plots.

All the policies can be seen on the Allotment website.

Reporting Accidents

A report form has been designed for reporting accidents on the Allotment site. This form can be downloaded from the allotment website or requested from the Association Secretary, at the email shown at the end of this newsletter.

Please use the form to report any accidents that occur on the allotment site.

Dogs on Site

Dogs are welcomed on site so long as they are kept under close control (ie on a lead) at all times. Obviously the owner is expected to clear up any mess left by the dog.

Trees

Please remember that you will need written consent from the Association to plant fruit trees/bushes that need more than 12 months to mature.

Tidy-up Dates

The Committee will inspect the site to decide what activities should be carried out on the tidy up days. Following the recent winds a lot of debris, bins etc have been blown about the site and you may have search the site for anything blown off your plot!

Notices of the dates for tidy-up days and activities will be posted on the notice board and sent to you by email.

We hope to see you at these events. Members of the Committee will be at these events and will be on hand to discuss any matters with you.

Windbreak and peripheral fence

Please do not lean anything against the windbreak and the deer and rabbit proof

Allotment Website and Contact details

The Allotment Association website can be accessed from the Parish Council website kingsleyparishcouncil.org by clicking the link to Allotments.

The Allotment Association Secretary can be contacted by email at allotments.secretary@kingsleyparishcouncil.org

Finally, if you are the last to leave the allotment site

Please can you make sure that the gates are shut, and the padlocks secured behind you.

Please ensure that all the water taps are turned off.

If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Allotment Association Committee (details on the site notice board).

Happy growing!