

MEETINGS OF ALLOTMENTS GROUP

THURSDAY 9 DECEMBER 2010 AT 7.30 PM and SATURDAY 11th DECEMBER 8.30 PM

Present: Cllrs. Joan Buller - JB, Jenny Fairfax -JFx, Jim Frodsham - JF and Roger Munn - RM; Resident Barrett Manning - BM

Apologies: Cllr. Paul Butcher

RM has joined the group which the other members welcomed; he has much useful local knowledge about land prices, availability and suitability. RM confirmed that any land which could be considered for allotments would fetch a much higher price for grazing than the Parish Council could offer; or landowners, hoping for planning permission, would not rent or sell. BM reported on his extensive research into previous Staplehurst allotment sites and whether there was any possibility of proving that they had been illegally withdrawn. BM recognised that others had also looked into this and had similarly found that any supporting documents (either way) could not be located. The majority of the group did not think it worth applying for funding through The People's Millions until a suitable site had been identified, despite advice from the Clerk that it would be a good project to at least try for funding for through this scheme. Those members present on 9th also met at The Jubilee Fields on 11th to walk the land and see if any areas could be put down to allotments. It was agreed that RM would discuss this further with Cllr. John Perry. Other sites were again suggested and it was decided to ask The Clerk to make an informal approach to certain landowners.

Jenny Fairfax

14.12.10