

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 3rd June at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Crofts, Waterhouse, Wilkins, 2 members of the public and the Acting Clerk

1	<p>Election of Chairman Cllr Crofts proposed Cllr Waterhouse and all members supported the proposal. It was resolved to elect Cllr Waterhouse as Chairman.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for absence None</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda Cllr Waterhouse declared a personal interest in matters pertaining to the allotment site by way of his allotment tenancy. However, a dispensation has been granted to Cllr Waterhouse with regard to Brickhill Allotments.</p>	
4	<p>Clarification regarding item raised during Public Open Session on 18th February relating to changes to the tenancy agreement At the 18th February meeting a member of the public asked if a tenant was responsible for clearing his plot until it contained only those items allowed under the current tenancy agreement, and the Chairman undertook to seek legal clarification. It has now been established that whilst the forgoing would apply to tenancies offered from 2011, it would not apply to plots occupied prior to 2011.</p>	
5	<p>Public Open Session A query was raised regarding the clearance of plots in particular does the council always remove all structures on plots before re-letting? It is the council's policy to clear all plots prior to letting to ensure they conform to the current tenancy agreement. If a shed is in place that is structurally sound then it would remain but if it is dilapidated, or exceeds the permitted dimensions for a shed then it will be removed from site. It is not the intention of the council to remove sheds/polytunnels if they are in a good sound condition.</p>	
6	<p>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Tuesday 18 February It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
7	<p>To receive a report on the management of the allotment site A written report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Cllr Waterhouse then took the meeting through the contents of the report. Plots 115 & 116 had been grassed over and this was a marked improvement to the appearance of the site. The brambles in the middle of plots 115 & 116 would remain – our contractor would ensure they did not become overgrown but it would be an expensive and unnecessary task to remove completely and the brambles provided cover, food source for birds and similarly allotment tenants also picked the fruit. One skip had already been</p>	

	provided but this was full within 1 hour of delivery. Consideration would be given to providing another skip on site later on in the year once the committee had a clearer idea on spend against budget. If another skip was provided this would be staffed and it was suggested that tenants were informed that wood and compostable materials would not be permitted to ensure there was more room for other items to be taken away.	
8	To confirm judging arrangements for the Allotment Gardening competition It was resolved that Cllrs Wilkins and Crofts would join the Clerk to judge the competition. This would take place during August and a notice of the date of judging would be placed on the allotment gates beforehand.	A Wilkins D Crofts The Clerk
9	To note the spend against budget for Brickhill Allotments The report was noted but it was very early in the financial year and there were few transactions to date.	
10	To receive a report regarding maintenance of Waveney Green including the Play Area Inspection Report The report was noted – the repairs noted in the Play Inspection Report were already in hand – parts for the Wooden Play Boat were on order. Quotes for the remaining work had been requested and would be actioned. Replacement tree on Waveney Green near to the rose bed area. Prices had been obtained for a replacement tree and two species of Oak were recommended either a Scarlet Oak or a Red Oak which would cost £250 and £165 respectively. A discussion then followed regarding the type of tree that should be planted and it was resolved to plant a London Plane tree, a good size specimen up to the value of £500. In addition Cllr Waterhouse proposed that a memorial plaque is commissioned to mark the 100 th anniversary of the start of World War 1. All members agreed to support this proposal which would be placed in front of the new tree. This idea would be put forward to members of the parish council for final approval.	Assistant Clerk Clerk/Full PC
11	To receive a report regarding the installation of bat boxes on Waveney Green A written report had been produced by Daniel Fellman, Greenspaces Officer for Bedford Borough Council. The recommendations were that the boxes should be located in the strip of land in the wood near Falcon Avenue (Borough Land) and to install a selection of different sized Woodcrete bat boxes. All members agreed to the proposal and it was resolved to obtain permission from Ed Burnett, Bedford Borough Council to install the boxes on Borough Land. Once permission had been granted then the council would purchase and install 5 Woodcrete bat boxes (different sizes).	Assistant Clerk
12	To note the spend against budget for Waveney Green The report was noted but it was very early in the financial year and there were few transactions to date. The footpaths on Waveney Green remained under review – repairs would probably be required during this financial year and this would be reported on at the next meeting.	
13	To confirm date of next meeting - Tuesday 2nd September 2014	

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Approved by Chairman
2nd September 2014