

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 4th November at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Crofts, Waterhouse, Wilkins, 1 member of the public and the Assistant Clerk

1	<p>Apologies for absence Cllr Mulvenney, it was resolved to accept the apologies.</p>	
2	<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>	
3	<p>Public Open Session The gate closest to the Scout Hut required a new padlock and chain as this was now very difficult to open. It was also reported that one of the drop down bolts had been stolen. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that a new padlock had already been ordered and she had spoken with her contractor regarding a replacement drop down bolt.</p> <p>The notice of the meeting wasn't emailed out this time can this be done in future? The Assistant Clerk had been on annual leave the week prior to the meeting but notices had been displayed at the allotment site, on the parish notice boards and on the website.</p> <p>When will the skip be at the allotments? A date had not been confirmed yet with our contractor but it would be in November and a notice would be displayed on the allotment gates informing the tenants and advising what should and shouldn't be placed in the skip. Tenants would be advised that wood should be burnt as should any green waste that could not be composted.</p> <p>Does the parish council know who owns and books the football pitches on Ashmead Road? The Assistant Clerk reported that these were owned by Bedford Borough Council and usually bookings for the borough football pitches are made at the Bedford Athletic stadium.</p> <p>Who do I need to contact regarding trees near my property? Contact A J Joshi who is the Borough tree officer.</p>	
4	<p>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Tuesday 2nd September It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>To receive a report on the management of the allotment site There are currently 5 plots available (3 half plots and 2 full plots) and a further 3 plots would shortly become vacant as notices to quit have been issued due to lack of cultivation in the previous year. The site had been broken into 3 times since the last meeting and the allotments officer had advised the tenants to report the matter to the police. In the past week 2 sheds had also been burnt out and again the tenants have been asked to report this matter to the police. There had also been some vandalism on</p>	

	the site and 2 of the plastic pipes to the water tanks closest to the community orchard had been cut through although there was no loss of water as the water had now been switched off for the Winter.	
6	<p>To note the spend against budget for Brickhill allotments</p> <p>The report was noted – there were no items of overspend except for waste disposal (skips) but this had been authorised. There would be no spend on defensive planting as the Assistant Clerk reported there were no further areas around the perimeter that required planting.</p>	
7	<p>To receive a report regarding the maintenance of Waveney Green</p> <p>The memorial tree should be planted on Saturday 8th November and members confirmed the location. The memorial plaque had been ordered and should be installed before the end of the year. There were only 2 suitable posts that could be used for the new dog signs and therefore it was resolved to purchase additional wooden posts (cost approx £100 plus installation). The replacement wooden posts at the play area would need to be installed by a RosPA approved contractor and the Assistant Clerk had arranged a site visit with Solutions 4 Playgrounds to discuss. The Bat boxes had been installed by the Borough and it was resolved to make a donation of £100 to the Bedfordshire Bat Trust in lieu of installation costs.</p>	Assistant Clerk
8	<p>To note the spend against budget for Waveney Green</p> <p>All budget headings were within budget. The Borough would not be charging for emptying of dog waste bins which would result in an underspend. It was anticipated that no spend would be made using the Waveney Green reserves of £8500 and the full amount would then be allocated to the designated reserves for Waveney Green giving a total amount of ££21,417 at the end of the financial year 2014/15. Members discussed the 3 year plan for Waveney Green for 2014/15. The plan had identified a suitable area for creating a wildflower meadow. However, the Borough had already planted a wildflower meadow at the far end of Waveney Green near Falcon Avenue. It was proposed to create a memorial garden in front of the rose beds as an alternative to a wildflower meadow. All members were in agreement and it was resolved to create a memorial garden in front of the existing rose beds to be completed during the financial year 2015/16.</p>	Assistant Clerk
9	<p>To consider the draft budget for Brickhill Allotments and Waveney Green for 2015/16</p> <p>All members had received a draft budget for 2015/16 which outlined the expenditure/budget for 2013/14; expenditure/budget and projected year end spend for 2014/15. It was resolved to set the budget for 2015/16 for Brickhill Allotments at £13,020. It was resolved to set the budget for 2015/16 for Waveney Green at £19,750.</p>	Assistant Clerk
10	<u>To confirm date of next meeting - Tuesday 3rd March 2015</u>	

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Approved by Chairman
16th September 2015