

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 19 February 2013 at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Crofts, Ovenell, Wilkins and Waterhouse, 3 members of the public and the Assistant Clerk

1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> There were no apologies</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda</u> 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><u>Public Open Session</u> When would the water be switched back on? 1st April 2013. Would there be any more bulk deliveries of compost this year? Growing Beds do not want to bring the large lorry onto site nor do the Parish Council want it brought on site as it has caused damage to verges, roadway and clipped the gates at the entrance. As a result Growing Beds could only provide compost using their smaller tipper lorry and this means multiple visits to the site and a much increased cost. There is no financial incentive to organise deliveries via the parish council and tenants would need to arrange this themselves or with neighbouring tenants. It was resolved that the Allotments Officer would contact Growing Beds to find out about prices per tonne/load and this information would be displayed on the entrance gates. What was the outcome regarding forming an Allotments Association? Following the last meeting a small number of tenants spoke with the rest of the tenants on the site. Whilst there was support for forming an Association there were insufficient numbers of tenants who were willing to join a committee. Therefore reluctantly this matter has been put on hold indefinitely.</p>	Allotments Officer
4	<p><u>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Tuesday 23 October</u> It was resolved to accept the minutes as true record of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p><u>To receive an update regarding the hedge planting event</u> Cllr Crofts reported that the event had been very successful with 16 volunteers attending. He thanked Mr Somerfield for the suggestion which was a much more cost-effective solution and then thanked everyone for supporting the parish council at this event. Several tenants have agreed to water the plants during the first year which should ensure the plants can become established more quickly.</p>	
6	<p><u>Site Security – report on break-ins to site since date of last meeting and Police involvement/action taken</u> The Allotments Officer reported that the site had been broken into and the majority of sheds had been targeted. This was reported to the police and a member of the finger printing team visited the site with the Allotments Officer. Whilst several partial fingerprints the results were inconclusive and no further action has been taken. The committee discussed utilising the mobile CCTV camera from Borough Councillors Rider</p>	

	<p>and Royden. It was resolved to ask for the use of the mobile CCTV camera at the Allotment site during the month of April.</p> <p>The committee agreed to include a separate item regarding replacement of taps at this point in the meeting.</p> <p>As discussed at the October meeting the replacement pipes and taps would need to be made from plastic to prevent further theft and damage occurring. Cllr Waterhouse circulated details of some products he had seen online and agreed to purchase 1 tap to see whether it was fit for purpose. If the product was suitable then Allotments Officer would instruct our contractor to purchase additional taps and complete the work ready for 1 April 2013 which is when the water will be switched back on.</p>	Assistant Clerk
7	<p><u>Community Plot – to discuss current use of plot and provision for local residents in Brickhill</u></p> <p>Katherine Miskin from TCV had provided the Allotments Officer with details regarding number of volunteers. Currently there were 5 regular attendees of which 3 are within Brickhill. The group had requested additional keys but it was resolved not to issue any additional keys as the original agreement with the BTCV was that there would always be a staff member present whenever the group were on site.</p>	Allotments Officer
8	<p><u>To note current spend for Waveney Green against Budget</u></p> <p>The report was noted.</p>	
9	<p><u>To consider and approve repair works to the Play Area</u></p> <p>Following recent play area inspections several areas of work have been identified. It was noted that the plastic edging and replacement posts were not urgent in terms of health and safety. Should these items be raised at the next play inspection due in May they would then be considered at the next committee meeting. It was resolved to instruct Solutions 4 Playgrounds to carry out the remainder of the repairs at a cost of £860 + VAT.</p>	Assistant Clerk
10	<p><u>Waveney Green parish council website information</u></p> <p>It was resolved to include more detailed information regarding Waveney Green on the parish council website. A timeline for the site would be included from when the PC entered into negotiations regarding the transfer of Waveney Green to the current date including provision for new under 6s play area.</p>	Assistant Clerk
	Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 21 May 2013, 7:00pm	

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 Approved by Chairman
 21 May 2013