

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 21st May 2013 at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill

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

1.	<u>Election of Chairman</u> Cllr Wilkins proposed and Cllr Crofts seconded Cllr Waterhouse for the role of Chairman. Cllr Waterhouse accepted the role of chairman and took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.	
2.	<u>Apologies for absence</u> There were no apologies	
3.	<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 to allow him to take part in any discussions but not to vote.	
4.	<u>Public Open Session</u> There were no questions from members of the public.	
5.	<u>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Tuesday 21st May 2013</u> It was resolved to accept the minutes as true record of the meeting with the minor change that the date of the meeting be amended from the 20 th to the 21 st May.	
6.	<u>To receive a report regarding use of mobile CCTV camera at Brickhill Allotments</u> Cllr Crofts gave a verbal report regarding correspondence received from Steve Tomlin at Bedford Borough Council. Several break-ins had occurred at the allotment site late last year and the fingerprinting team had visited the allotment site with the Allotments Officer. The Police had arrested and charged someone over the break-ins although the Parish Council had not been informed of this (the information was relayed via Beds BC). The Borough did not feel that the mobile CCTV would be a suitable deterrent as it was a fixed camera and could not make a sweep of the area. It would also need to be sited where there was an electricity supply and the only suitable location would be on the lamp posts on the roadway outside the allotments. It was resolved that the council would not pursue the use of the CCTV camera at present. It was resolved: that the Assistant Clerk would write to the Police and question why the Parish Council were never informed that someone had been arrested and charged in relation to crimes that had taken place on council property.	Assistant Clerk
7.	<u>To receive a report on the management of the site</u> All members had received a report from the Allotments Officer prior to the meeting. This detailed how many plots were vacant, no's on waiting list, any NTQ issued and any maintenance issues. It was disappointing to note that Plot 115 remained un-let despite spending several hundred pounds clearing the plot last year. A tenant at the site had expressed an interest on taking on	Assistant Clerk

	the plot in addition to their own It was resolved that due the amount spent on clearing the plot it would be offered to the tenant but that this did not set a precedent for multiple plots and the policy regarding multiple plots remained as in the allotments strategy.	
8.	<u>To note the play area inspection report and approve any recommendations</u> This item had been included on the agenda as the play inspection was due in May. Unfortunately it had not taken place prior to the meeting so any findings would be discussed at next meeting in August – any urgent matters would be brought to the next full PC meeting.	
9.	<u>Waveney Green footpath repairs</u> Members of the committee had visited the site and looked at the two areas recommended for repair. It was resolved to review this at the August meeting.	ALL
10.	<u>To discuss maintenance options associated with use of existing football posts on Waveney Green</u> The area in front of the two lower goal posts was extremely worn with a large hollowed out area. This would need to be repaired with topsoil and re-seeded. In addition the posts were in the way when community events took place and also for the football club sessions held on Saturday mornings. It was resolved to remove the football posts and to re-locate them further up the Green. The Assistant Clerk and Cllr Wilkins would visit the site to determine a suitable location.	Assistant Clerk Cllr Wilkins
11.	<u>To consider the use of Waveney Green by outside organisations</u> Recently it has been noted that local fitness organisations have started to use Waveney Green for outdoor training sessions. Whilst the Parish Council welcomed the use of the Green for members of the public it had a duty to ensure that the organisations were insured and were aware of other users/events taking place on Waveney Green. It was resolved to ensure any fitness organisation using Waveney Green has full PL insurance, organisations are not permitted to advertise their activities anywhere on the Green and they must contact the Parish Council to check their activities do not clash with existing arrangements ie Football Club on Saturday mornings.	Assistant Clerk
12.	<u>To discuss the allocation of Bedford Borough Land at the end of Francis Groves Close and to consider whether to adopt it as part of the Parish Council Waveney Green adopted area</u> Currently not all of Waveney Green is under the ownership of the Parish Council. There is a portion of land at the end of Francis Groves Close that is still owned by Bedford Borough Council. Members discussed whether they should contact the Borough to discuss taking on this additional part of the Green. However, it was noted that the Borough also own a strip of land adjacent to Waveney Avenue with many mature Horse Chestnut Trees on it. If the parish council were to take on the land by Francis Groves Close they would still not have full ownership of the whole of Waveney Green. It was resolved not to pursue this matter.	
13.	Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 20 August 2013, 7:00pm	

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Approved by Chairman
20 August 2013