

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Thursday 19th May at St Marks Church, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Bowler, Chrusciak, and Holloway, Carter, Reeve and the Assistant Clerk. In addition there were 2 members of the public.

1	Election of Chairman Cllr Bowler offered to stand as chairman. It was resolved to elect Cllr Bowler as Chairman.	
2	Apologies for absence Cllr Reeve had sent apologies as she was on holiday – it was resolved to accept the apologies for absence.	
3	Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda None	
4	Public Open Session Q: Would it be possible to move the judging for the gardening competition to July as there will be more crops/plants at this time of the year? Members agreed this seemed a sensible suggestion and Cllrs Holloway and Bowler agreed to judge this year's competition. It was reported that the first set of entrance gates to the allotments appear to have dropped and are becoming difficult to open and close. It was resolved to ask the parish council's contractor to organise for repairs.	M Bowler V Holloway Assistant Clerk
5	To confirm minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 24th February It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.	
6	To receive a report on the management of Brickhill allotments The parish council had received a complaint from a resident in Curlew Crescent regarding flooding in their garden. The garden backs onto the allotment site and the garden is on lower ground and slopes down away from the allotments. The Allotments Officer had visited the site and viewed the plots directly behind the garden. There was no obvious sign of a drainage channel and no change to the use of the land, although currently the plots are vacant. Members considered what action if any could be taken and whether as custodians of the land there was any responsibility to manage the discharge of water from the allotments. Members agreed that since there has not been a change in the use of the land the parish council were not responsible for rain water run off which was largely due to the topography of the residents garden and the unprecedented heavy rainfall recently. Members expressed concern that if alterations were made to alleviate rain water run off this could end up diverting the water elsewhere onto neighbouring plots or other properties. It was resolved to write to Mr Franklin informing him of the council's decision. The parish council would continue to monitor the situation and if this occurs again then it will reconsider the situation.	
7	To note the spend against budget for the allotments It was noted that the accounts only reflected the first months spend of the financial year and there were no matters arising from the report. It was resolved to instruct Bedford Borough Council to undertake the road surfacing repairs on Fosters Brow in front of the allotments at a cost of £800 + VAT.	Assistant Clerk

8	<p>To receive a report on the management of Waveney Green including the annual play area inspection report</p> <p>The report was noted. The only items which required action were the tall wooden posts which required the cracks filling as these could be finger traps. One of the bike racks is currently bent – members considered whether to replace or remove. It was resolved to remove the bike rack.</p> <p>There is graffiti on the climbing stone and this will need to be removed.</p>	<p>Assistant Clerk</p> <p>Assistant Clerk</p>
9	<p>To consider costs for replacement safety surfacing for the play areas on Waveney Green</p> <p>Members considered whether to install the soft bond surfacing or bark chippings. It was noted that the toddler play area is waterlogged in the Autumn and Winter months, the area is surrounded by trees and does stay damp for a long period of time. It is also a high traffic environment which would mean the bark chippings would need to be replaced regularly and raked over to ensure minimum depth is maintained. The soft bond surfacing would be a one off cost with no maintenance required. Members voted 3 to 1 in favour of the proposal to install the soft bond surfacing for the toddler area only. If the surfacing proved successful then consideration would be given to installing this under the other equipment on the green such as the basket swing and the supernova.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
10	<p>To note the spend against budget for Waveney Green</p> <p>It was noted that the accounts only reflected the first months spend of the financial year and there were no matters arising from the report.</p> <p>Waveney Green – members agreed the council should have another 3 year plan for Waveney Green and consider what facilities we want for the Green. One option was to install a green gym, previously members had suggested this was included during the public consultation with residents as part of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. However, it was unclear whether an NDP for Brickhill would be undertaken and it was agreed to explore the possibility of a green gym for Waveney Green to be funded in next year's budget. This item would be raised at the next PC meeting and also whether full council requirement a consultation with local residents about this proposal. All agreed that the long term goal for Waveney Green is that it is seen as a community asset and used by the local community with facilities for all age groups.</p>	
11	<p>Date of next meeting – 15th September 2016</p>	

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Approved by Chairman
15 September 2016