

# BRICKHILL

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Thursday 18 May at St Marks Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill

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

1	<b>Election of Chairman</b>	
2	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Cllr Holloway had sent apologies – <b>it was resolved</b> to accept the apologies.	
3	<b>Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda</b> None	
4	<b>Public Open Session</b> There were no questions	
5	<b>To confirm minutes from meeting held on 1 March 2017. It was resolved</b> to accept the minutes with an amendment to the names of councillors present and to note that Cllr Holloway had sent apologies. A revised set of minutes would be sent to Cllr Bowler for signing.	Assistant Clerk
6	<p><b>To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments</b> A written report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Currently there are 5 full plots and 1 half plot vacant of which 4 had been vacant for more than 2 years. <b>It was resolved</b> to approve works to plough these plots in time for the open morning. Spend against budget was noted but it was very early in the new financial year so no issues of concern. So far £3410 had been collected in rent with a further £846 outstanding. Tenants had been informed they were in arrears and needed to settle their account.</p> <p><b>It was resolved</b> that Cllrs Holloway and Koch would judge the gardening competition on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July. Cllr Bowler would join them if possible. This would also be the date of the Allotments Open Morning.</p> <p>It had been suggested that the A&amp;OS committee should draft a Health and Safety policy for the allotments. All members had received a copy of the health and safety and risk management examples produced by the Allotment Regeneration Initiative. <b>It was resolved</b> that the Assistant Clerk and the Clerk would undertake a site visit and put together a draft risk assessment. This would be circulated to all members for comments and consideration. Once any amendments and suggestions had been agreed this would be presented for adoption at the September meeting.</p> <p>The existing allotments strategy covers the period 2010-2015 and needs revising. <b>It was resolved</b> that the strategy would be circulated to all members for comments and consideration. Once any amendments and suggestions had been agreed this would be presented for adoption at the September meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr Holloway, Cllr Koch, Assistant Clerk</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p><b>It was resolved</b> that there was no requirement for a separate 3 year plan for the allotments as this is already covered by the allotments strategy.</p>	
7	<p><b>To receive a report on the management of Waveney Green including spend against budget for 2016-17</b></p> <p>A written report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.</p> <p>Spend against budget – members noted an overspend for pitch marking because John O'Connor had not invoiced for the pitch marking for 2016-17 in the correct financial year.</p> <p>The green gym equipment had been ordered. The original quote had included 65m<sup>2</sup> of rubber mulch surfacing. However, following a site visit between solutions for playgrounds and the Assistant clerk it was agreed that each piece of equipment would have its own surfacing (similar to the Borough installation at Mowsbury Park), this would require only 24m<sup>2</sup> of mulch. Members were asked if they would consider installing rubber mulch surfacing under the SuperNova equipment. The additional cost would be £880 more than the £7K budgeted for the green gym but it is cheaper to include this work whilst the contractor, equipment and staff are on site installing the green gym. It was resolved to approve the additional spend for the rubber mulching under the SuperNova. It was noted that the rubber gaitor on the pendulum swing would need to be replaced at a cost of £130 and this would be carried out together with the annual inspection when the green gym is installed.</p> <p>The Department for Communities and Local Government has published a consultation on conserving the free use of public parks. The government are proposing to introduce legislation which would put it beyond doubt that local authorities, including parish councils, cannot charge parkrun or junior parkrun for the use of public parks. NALC has asked its members to respond to the consultation by the 28 June. The A&amp;OS committee considered its response and it was resolved to reply as follows:</p> <p>1) To disagree with the proposed bill. This is a local issue and should be dealt with by local authorities at their discretion.</p> <p>2 &amp; 3) These points are not relevant to Brickhill Parish Council</p> <p>The committee agreed with NALC's position generally and agreed with the final paragraph outlined below:</p> <p>"NALC is also hugely supportive of parks and open spaces as integral to the health and wellbeing agenda and of the concept of parish councils being the custodians of green spaces in their areas (and encouraging their residents to use these spaces) – whether the parish council owns or maintains such parks."</p> <p>Members then discussed whether Waveney Green was suitable for a park run. It was agreed that Waveney Green was not larger enough for this type of event as the route is usually 5km.</p> <p>Members were then asked to consider an additional item. Members agreed to this and considered the need for a new 3-year plan to run from 2017-2020. The following items were agreed:</p> <p>2017 – green gym installation</p> <p>2017 – wildflower meadow expansion</p> <p>2017 – insect overwintering boxes to be installed close to the Wildflower Meadow to include an interpretation board explaining their significance.</p> <p>Members agreed that hedgehog boxes would be better suited at the allotment site as they would probably be vandalised on Waveney Green.</p> <p>2018 – 1 additional piece of green gym or play area equipment</p> <p>2018 – rubber mulch surfacing to be installed under the pendulum swing</p>	Assistant Clerk

	<p>2019 – tree planting</p> <p>Members asked if a tree survey had been carried out for Waveney Green. Members were advised that a full survey was carried out in 2012. A quarterly inspection of Waveney Green takes place and a visual inspection is carried out on all the trees. The majority of the trees are mature specimens, in good health with a long-life expectancy. If the parish council were to plant more trees this would need to be agreed by the borough council and undertaken following advice from an arboricultural officer.</p>	
8	<b>Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017</b>	

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 Approved by Chairman  
 15 November 2017