

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Thursday 29th September at St Marks Church, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Bowler, Holloway, Carter, Reeve and the Assistant Clerk. In addition there was 1 member of the public.

1	Apologies for absence None.	
2	Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda None	
3	Public Open Session Can you confirm which plot won the gardening competition? <i>Plot 104 best plot & 138 best new plot.</i> Perhaps next year there could be a notice to inform tenants when the judging was taking place and what the judging criteria was? There were no further questions.	Asst Clerk
4	To confirm minutes from meeting held on Thursday 19th May. It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.	Asst Clerk
5	To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments The report was noted. Currently there are 11 full plots and 1 ½ plot vacant with no one on the waiting list. The Borough's Allotments Officer has been informed that we have plots available, there will be an advert on the home page of the parish council website, on the noticeboards and in the next edition of the parish newsletter. <i>If a plot becomes free and is left in a good condition do you rent this one out first?</i> Plots in good condition are always offered first and this should help neighbouring tenants who are not left with a disused and overgrown plot near to them. Members suggested holding an Allotments Open Day to generate interest in the allotments and this could be held on the same day as the judging for the gardening competition in July. This would be considered for next year including the format of the open day and whether to include a best produce competition. The council had received a request to install a turning area for cars on the grassed over plot opposite the wildflower meadow. The proposal would be to dig out the ground the entire width of the plot, lay hardcore, gravel over and then put edging in to ensure the gravel is retained. One of the allotment tenants had offered to supply the hardcore for the project. Members agreed this would be of benefit to tenants with plots at the far end of the site who otherwise would have to reverse their cars several hundred yards to the midway turning section. At this stage the Assistant Clerk did not have a total cost for the project but the approximate cost would be approximately £500 and could be funded out of this year's maintenance reserve. It was resolved to proceed with this work providing the cost was under £500. If the cost was higher then permission would be sought from the committee. The roadway and safety rail works had been completed and this area provides an	ALL Asst Clerk

	<p>additional 6 parking spaces. Members were asked if they would consider paying for roadway repairs on Fosters Brow on the approach to the first set of gates. This section of the roadway is in a very poor condition and the Borough has already indicated they do not have the funds to pay for repairs on what is technically undesignated highway but still within their ownership. The Borough have given approval for the Parish Council to undertake repairs providing they use the Borough highways team to undertake the work. It was resolved to obtain a quote from Highways for repair to the roadway which will be of benefit to visitors to the Scout Hut as well as allotments tenants.</p> <p>The Clerk had received a complaint from a tenant regarding his neighbour on Curlew Crescent. The neighbour lives on Curlew Crescent and is a plot holder. They had recently installed a gate in their garden fence and were now accessing the allotments and also the nature reserve via their back gate. This involves walking through the allotments directly behind their property. The tenancy agreement states "<i>The Tenant shall not enter onto any other plot at any time without the express permission of the relevant plot holder.</i>" The current plot holder does not give permission and therefore the parish council has been asked to enforce the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement. It was resolved to write to the neighbour to ask them to refrain from accessing the allotments and nature reserve via their garden. In future they should access the site via the front gates on Fosters Brow.</p>	<p>Asst Clerk</p> <p>Asst Clerk</p>
6	<p>To note the spend against budget for Brickhill Allotments</p> <p>The report was noted. Members asked if the charge for water would be within budget for this financial year. The water is switched on from 1 April to 1 October and the final bill had not been issued. There is a daily standing charge in addition to the unit cost however we anticipate being under budget this financial year. The Assistant Clerk also offered to provide details regarding the daily standing charge to Cllr Carter.</p>	
7	<p>Waveney Green:</p> <p>(i) To receive a report on the management of Waveney Green</p> <p>The report was noted. Members asked what the situation was regarding the Parish Council's request for a legal order. The parish council has approved legal costs for obtaining an order. The parish council has instructed Bedford Borough Council to apply for a legal order for Waveney Green. Once in place this would mean any encampment could be dealt with swiftly and the travellers moved off the land within 24hrs. Initially the Borough did not have sufficient evidence to proceed with the request but since there have now been 3 illegal encampments there should be sufficient evidence to support the application and ensure the legal order is granted. It was noted that the officers at Bedford Borough Council and our Borough Councillors had acted swiftly to move the travellers off Waveney Green and that the area was cleaned and returned to its original condition immediately.</p> <p>To consider installation of green gym equipment</p> <p>This item was very much in the early planning stages and quotes sought for green gym equipment similar to that at Mowsbury Park. One quote had been obtained so far at a cost of £9366.30 from Fresh Air Fitness. Two further quotes would be available for consideration at the next meeting, one from Sovereign playgrounds and one from Solutions 4 Playgrounds. Members asked if we were using the same supplier who had been invited to quote for equipment at Woodlands Park. The Assistant Clerk had already asked for details from Cllr Bailes. Fresh Air Fitness had been recommended by Bedford Borough Council and Solutions 4 Playgrounds had already undertaken work for the parish council. Members then considered where the best location for the green gym would be. The preferred location was the area adjacent to the older children's play equipment. It was also</p>	

	<p>agreed to keep the equipment in one area so that parents could use the outdoor gym whilst still keeping an eye on their children using the other play area. This part of Waveney Green is away from the football pitches, relatively flat and situated away from housing but can still be seen from the footpath and road which should deter vandals.</p> <p>To consider future plans for the current wildflower area Members wished to extend the current wildflower area which had been very successful this year. It was resolved to contact Chris Horne and ask whether he could extend the current wildflower area but to soften the edges and perhaps introduce a walk way through the flowers.</p>	Asst Clerk
8	<p>To note the spend against budget for Waveney Green The report was noted – the item for contingency had been spent as this was the amount charged for clearing up after the illegal encampment on Waveney Green. It was noted there would be a further clean-up cost following the most recent encampment, but overall Waveney Green should be within budget.</p>	
9	Date of next meeting – 24th November 2016	

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Approved by Chairman
24th November 2016