

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 7th November 2018 at St Marks Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Holloway, Fitzpatrick, Retout, Reeve and the Clerk. In addition, there were 3 members of the public.

1	Apologies for absence: None.	
2	Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda: None	
3	<p>Public Open Session:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Water Supply:</u> A tenant attended and thanked the Committee for keeping the water on an extra couple of weeks to give tenants a chance to fill their water butts. 2) <u>Compost Toilet:</u> An update would be provided later in the meeting. 3) <u>Break in to shed :</u> The tenant had not received any further follow-up from the police. 	
4	To confirm minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 16th May 2018. It was resolved to accept the minutes.	Clerk
5	<p>To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>To note the current spend against budget:</u> The Clerk circulated this to the Committee Members. • <u>An update on the general management of site since the date of May meeting:</u> It has been a difficult year with heavy snow over the Winter and an exceptionally dry Summer. Currently there are 9 plots vacant which the Clerk understands is unprecedented. There has been widespread publicity to try to attract new tenants but to no avail. There are a number of plots which are not particularly well maintained but given the lack of interest from residents wishing to take over plots, there is no 	Clerk

	<p>point threatening these tenants with eviction. The Clerk agreed to check the plots again and take action where needed.</p> <p>Following the plumbing works on the site, the site passed the Anglia Water inspection which will not take place again for a number of years.</p> <p>The trees near the entrance opposite the scout hut need cutting back in terms of height and depth as they cut off light to those plots in close proximity during the Winter when the sun is low in the sky. The Clerk has asked our contractor for a quotation.</p> <p>Year 5 of Brickhill Primary visited the allotments on the 7th September. They thoroughly enjoyed the visit and thanks were expressed to those tenants who kindly explained the joys of allotment gardening to the pupils.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Report on the Open Day 30th June 2018:</u> Despite widespread publicity as well as good weather on the day, no-one attended. The Clerk thanked Cllrs Reeve and Holloway who came along. • <u>Composting toilet:</u> The Clerk reported that it had proved difficult to have a portaloo located on the allotments. The original intention of this was to establish if tenants felt that having a toilet facility on the allotments was something that they would like. The Clerk referred to the composting toilet in the September newsletter and asked for tenants to contact her if they were in support of such a facility. To date only one tenant has registered support. Cllr Fitzpatrick agree to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Committee. • <u>Dates for the newsletter:</u> The Clerk produced a newsletter in September which she posted on the gates of the allotments as well as e-mailed out to those tenants who provided e-mail addresses. She planned to send the next one out with the rent letters in March. 	<p>Cllr Fitzpatrick</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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6	<p>To receive a report on the management of Waveney Green to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Current spend against budget:</u> The Clerk circulated this to the Committee Members. • <u>An update on the general management of the site since the May meeting:</u> The Clerk reported that the problems reported by the Brickhill Lower School Football Club at the May meeting appeared to have been solved in that the grass cutting and line markings are now in synchronisation. Due to the hot Summer the length of the grass has been less of a problem. • <u>To note the acquisition of the remainder of Waveney Green and consider an inspection of the area:</u> The Clerk reported that this has finally happened and she has met with Phoenix Surfacing, whose quotation has already been agreed, to discuss the new footpath to be installed to link the existing footpaths on Waveney Green to Francis Groves Close and to discuss the works to the existing footpaths. The Clerk is now waiting for formal permission from the borough council so the work can get underway on the new footpath with the intention of doing all the works at the same time. The Clerk agreed to produce a map showing the footpath maintenance scheme for the Green. <p>At some point it would be useful to inspect the trees on the newly acquired section to decide if any works are needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>To consider the management of the wildflower meadow and agree action:</u> Cllr Fitzpatrick would try to get in touch with Community Payback. He would also get some quotes for extra birdboxes. • <u>To receive the play area inspection report and agree action:</u> The Clerk reported that the inspection took place on the 19th October. There were no problems identified with the new green gym equipment installed off Ashmead Road. With regards the wooden equipment on Waveney Green, some splits had been reported, the three wooden logs have been removed as they were crumbling, some edges need sanding down and some caps and rubber sleeves need replacing on the cantilever swing and 	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Fitzpatrick</p>
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