

# BRICKHILL

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## PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at St Marks Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill

**Present:** Cllrs Holloway, Fitzpatrick, Reeve, Jarman-Webb and the Clerk. In addition, there were 2 members of the public.

1	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> None.	
2	<b>Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda:</b> None	
3	<p><b><u>Public Open Session:</u></b></p> <p>i. <u>Request to have a bee hive on the allotment site:</u> The tenant attended the meeting to explain his experience and training in bee keeping. Following discussion, <b>it was agreed</b> to allow the tenant concerned to have a hive on the site. The Clerk would amend the allotment handbook to allow bees to be kept on the site provided any tenant requested to do so had undertaken the long and detailed training required, was a member of the appropriate society and had necessary insurance. The new handbook would be placed on the website and the Clerk would refer to this amendment in the next newsletter due out in the Autumn.</p> <p>ii. <u>Fosters Brow Sign and the overhanging tree:</u> A tenant had reported to the Clerk that the sign on the left hand side as vehicles leave Fosters Brow and cross the footpath running alongside Brickhill Drive was located in a position which made it difficult for drivers to see pedestrians. This was also the case on the right hand side because of an overhanging tree. He thanked the Clerk for reporting both of these problems on the borough council website.</p> <p>iii. <u>End of year budget:</u> The Clerk agreed to send a copy to the tenant.</p>	<p>The Clerk</p> <p>The Clerk.</p>
4	<b>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018. It was resolved</b> to accept the minutes.	The Clerk.
5	<p><b>To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>To note the current spend against budget:</u> The Clerk circulated this to the Committee Members.</li> <li><u>An update on the general management of site since the last meeting:</u></li> </ul> <p>The trees which are on allotment land near the scout hut were trimmed back at the end of February allowing light on adjacent plots. The trees have grown significantly and need cutting back hard down to the fence line once the bird nesting season is over.</p> <p>We have had one skip this year.</p> <p>Water usage is a concern.</p> <p>We have had two instances of rubbish being dumped on the front of a tenant's plot (same tenant in both cases). The suspect is another allotment tenant.</p> <p>We have also had general rubbish and tree waste dumped amongst the woodchip. The Clerk has put up a notice reminding tenants not to let anyone without a key onto the allotments especially anyone with a pick up. She has also</p>	

	<p>put up a notice on the gates asking tree surgeons with keys only to drop woodchip.</p> <p>The Clerk will send out another newsletter in the Autumn to those tenants for whom we have e-mails and put a copy on the website and the gates.</p> <p>We have a total of 136 full and 15 half plots.</p> <p>We currently have 3 full and one half plots available but the half plot gets very wet (229a) and 230 is next to the fence and shaded by the trees on the borough land. There are four further tenants in the process of giving up.</p> <p>We currently have 23 plots with outstanding rents (including the three mentioned above). The Clerk has sent out reminders. She suspects some more are planning to give up.</p> <p>The Clerk did an inspection on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May. A number of plots have seen little work this season and she is in the process of writing to about 20 tenants.</p> <p>She is awaiting a date to meet with Danny from CCTV Control to look at options on the site.</p> <p>There have been complaints that the first walkway/driveway up amongst allotments 117-153 opposite the first entrance needs filling in as cars are starting to catch their underside on the middle section as they drive down. We may need to consider quotes for stone to fill in the area.</p> <p><u>Date for the judging of the allotments:</u></p> <p>This usually takes place at the end of June with prizes given out at the Gathering on the Green on the 6<sup>th</sup> July. Once a date has been set, the Clerk will put something on the gates. The councillors will agree amongst themselves who will be involved in the judging and the Clerk will give them information about which plots fall within each of the three groupings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Any other matters:</u> None.</li> </ul>	All Councillors and the Clerk.
6	<p><b>To receive a report on the management of Waveney Green to include:</b></p> <p><u>Current spend against budget:</u> The Clerk circulated this to the Committee Members.</p> <p><u>An update on the general management of the site since the last meeting:</u> There have once again been issues regarding the length of grass and the white line marking and the pitch cutting getting out of synch.</p> <p>The new footpath has been installed and the repairs done.</p> <p>CCTV has been installed. All seems to be working well. The cost of £3,650 has been split between Waveney Green Reserves and the Contingency cost areas in the budget.</p> <p>The Clerk will have a general look around the Green with regards trees and ask for a quote for any work especially in the newly acquired strip.</p> <p>We made use of Community Payback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean and treat the “Palmer’s” bench</li> <li>• Tidy the memorial garden</li> <li>• Hedge trimming</li> </ul> <p><u>Wildflower Meadow:</u> This was rotavated and seeded by Chris Horne at the end of March. His advice was that we should monitor and remove thistles as necessary.</p>	The Clerk

	<p>The Clerk would establish the type of seed used.</p> <p><u>Play area:</u> Now the footpath works have been finished, the Clerk will meet with Solutions4Playgrounds to look at repairs and then for a possible location for a roundabout. Whilst it had originally been thought that its location would be in place of the galleon, a preferred location was where the three logs had been removed. The Clerk will seek permission from the borough council to install a roundabout. It would need rubber mulch around it to stop ground erosion. Further options include the installation of a table tennis table. It was further agreed to look for another galleon to replace the existing one. The Clerk would investigate and get prices.</p> <p><u>Christmas Lights elsewhere in the parish:</u> <b>It was agreed</b> that all councillors would give thought as to alternative locations including the shops and Rooksmead Pond as well as on Woodlands Park.</p> <p><u>Christmas tree on Waveney Green:</u> <b>It was agreed</b> to hold this on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December. The Clerk would ask Cllr Ward about whether santa could visit. If not, the Clerk would see whether last year's santa would be willing to do the honours again. The Clerk would contact the primary schools to see if they would like to get involved.</p>	<p>The Clerk.</p> <p>All Councillors</p> <p>The Clerk.</p>
7	<b>Appointment of Chairman:</b> The Clerk would put this on the agenda for November.	The Clerk
8	<b>Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 7.30pm in the Wren Room.	

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Approved by Chairman  
13<sup>th</sup> November 2019