

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 13th November 2019 at St Marks Church, Calder Rise, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Holloway, Fitzpatrick, Reeve, Jarman-Webb and the Clerk. In addition, there were 8 members of the public.

1.	<p><u>Appointment of Chairman:</u> Cllr Fitzpatrick proposed Cllr Holloway, Cllr Reeve seconded and it was agreed that Cllr Holloway should be duly appointed Chairman for the coming year.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Apologies for absence:</u> None.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda:</u> None.</p>	
4.	<p><u>Public Open Session (10 mins):</u></p> <p><u>Notifying the public when meetings are:</u> The Clerk reported that she puts an agenda on the website and also on the gates of the allotments. In essence the meetings are held in February, May and November, approximately in the middle of the month.</p> <p><u>Possible new play equipment:</u> A young resident attended with a list of possible future play equipment for Waveney Green. The Clerk said that more equipment will need to be installed in the future beyond the two pieces being considered at the moment. When that time comes, the suggested equipment on this list will be considered. The young resident was thanked for attending.</p> <p><u>Updating of the handbook re: bees:</u> The Clerk reported that the delay was because she was seeking further clarification on qualifications and memberships needed for potential beekeepers.</p> <p><u>Three Year Plan for Waveney Green and Brickhill Allotments:</u> The current plan runs until the end of 2019. At the February meeting this will be reviewed and a new three year plan devised.</p> <p><u>Tree Works to rear of Francis Groves Close:</u> Further consideration will be given to this and quotes obtained from some tree surgeons.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
5.	<p><u>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 29th May 2019.</u> It was resolved to accept the minutes.</p>	

6.	<p><u>To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments:</u></p> <p><u>To note the current spend against budget and expected to end March 2020:</u> This was circulated amongst Committee members.</p> <p><u>An update on the general management of the site since the last meeting:</u> The Clerk reported that currently there is one full plot and a half plot vacant. The full plot has a large number of tyres on it which she is investigating how to dispose of. The half plot gets waterlogged and will be difficult to let. There is a waiting list for full and half plots.</p> <p>Work has been done to the trees near the scout hut to provide more light to those plots near to them.</p> <p>We experienced both main locks being cut off with bolt cutters. Both have been replaced with padlocks currently in our possession. We know that we cannot get the lock again as it is no longer manufactured. One alternative will be to move over to a combination lock or replace all the keys.</p> <p>There has been reports of petty thefts.</p> <p>Water usage has been exceptionally high this year. The meter readings agree with the water bills received. The usage will depend on the weather and the number of tenants actively using their plots. Our contractor has checked all the water points and established there are no leaks. A couple of water tanks need replacing. The situation would be reviewed over the coming year and consideration given to a water test across the site.</p> <p>The 12m column is now in situ and the CCTV cameras will be installed once the Clerk has accepted the quotation.</p> <p>The beavers have rented plot 230. The Committee agreed not to charge rent. They have paid a plot deposit of £50.</p> <p>There have had a number of complaints of tenants having bonfires to burn plot rubbish on site and disturbing residents in Curlew Crescent. The Clerk has put up notices and will reinforce in the next newsletter that tenants need to consider wind direction etc when setting off bonfires as well as staying on site. It would be difficult to ban bonfires.</p> <p><u>Agree budget for 2020-21:</u> This was circulated and agreed. These figures will feed into the overall budget for the parish council.</p> <p><u>Any other matters:</u> None.</p>	
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