



Minutes of a Meeting of the Allotment & Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford.

Present:

Cllrs Holloway, Fitzpatrick, Grant, the Clerk (Mrs S Bottoms) and 3 members of the public were in attendance.

Absent:

Cllr Rani.

Summary of the meeting: -

Table 1- Minutes

Item	Description	Action By
1.	Apologies for Absence: None.	
2.	Declarations of Interest in items on the agenda: None.	
3.	Public Open Sessions (10 minutes): Padlocks: The Clerk reported that the padlocks on the first gate and into the orchard would be changed at the end of March/early April. The padlock on the gate near the Scout Hut would also be changed as it keeps coming apart.	Clerk
4.	To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th November 2023: The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.	

5. **To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments to include:**

a) To note current spend against budget:

The Clerk had e-mailed out spend against budget on separate sheet. Cllr Fitzpatrick questioned the cost of removing old structures and how that cost might be minimised in the future.

b) An update on the general management of the site since the last meeting:

i) Waiting list:

The Clerk noted that currently there is 19 Brickhill residents waiting for either a full or half plot and 66 non residents wanting a full or half plot. She is not adding any names to the non-resident list at the moment.

She recently let 4 full plots and one half plot. There is only one half plot vacant and she hopes to let that soon. There will be certainly 3 full and one half plot coming vacant and all will receive back their plot and key deposits.

ii) Gardening Competition:

This was due to be reinstated in Summer 2023 but had not happened. **It was agreed** that Cllrs Holloway and Fitzpatrick would undertake the judging in June having agreed the new criteria. The Clerk would advertise this in the newsletter which she would attach to the gate towards the end of March.

c) Any other matters:

i) Two large trees to the rear of 93/95 Curlew Crescent:

Work had been completed to the two trees at a cost of £450.

Clerk

ii) Land to the rear of 97 Curlew Crescent:

The Parish Council is currently in negotiation to take this over from Bedford Borough Council.

Clerk

iii) Fence to the rear of 115 Curlew Crescent needs repair:

	<p>The resident has asked for a key to access for the repair. Discussion took place regarding a failure in the past to have keys returned. Consideration to be given in the future to asking for a returnable deposit to be paid before a key is handed over. In this case, as the key will no longer be operational after the end of March, the Clerk will give the resident a key but will still request it is returned.</p> <p>iv) Risk Assessment:</p> <p>The Clerk walked the site looking for any issues on the walkways and fence line. All was tidy. The site was very wet following the recent heavy rains.</p> <p>v) Asian Hornets:</p> <p>Posters are on the gates to the allotments and the Clerk will put copies on noticeboards once she receives any from the bee keeper.</p>	
6.	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 21st February 2024 at 7.30pm in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church and Community Centre.</p>	

Approved and signed by

Chairman

21st February 2024