

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of a Meeting of the Allotment & Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 13th August at 7.30pm in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church and Community Centre, Calder Rise, Brickhill, Bedford.

Present:

Cllrs Holloway, Cllr Grant, Fitzpatrick, Assistant Clerk (Mrs C Tyrrell) and 4 members of the public were in attendance.

Absent:

None.

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): A tenant asked about closure of the allotments as reported in national newspapers by Borough Councils and asked if we are under any threat of this. Cllr Fitzpatrick responded that Brickhill Allotments belong to and are funded by the Parish Council, and we have no intention to do anything to reduce the allotment area. Cllr Fitzpatrick stated that we do not breakeven and the only way to achieve this is to increase rent dramatically. The 3 year plan – Assistant Clerk has received emails from tenants with their suggestions.	

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	<p>A tenant asked if we could put on a produce show and Cllr Fitzpatrick replied we have a Brickhill Parish Newsletter that could advertise this event.</p> <p>A tenant asked if he could set up a designated area for burning, in the northwest corner of the allotments away from the houses. Cllr Fitzpatrick replied using plinths of this site is acceptable.</p> <p>A tenant said to take allotment rubbish to the tidy tip you must have a permit and sign to say the rubbish taken is from your house. Cllr Fitzpatrick said we need to take this point up with the Borough as people with allotments should be able to take rubbish there.</p> <p>A tenant said the bolt on the northeast gate is difficult to open. Assistant Clerk to get fixed.</p> <p>Cllr Grant stated that the funding from the Parish Council has been agreed, and the allotments to be part of the neighbourhood plan and have been put in front of an inspector. Once signed and agreed this will give us more protection for local food growing sites.</p>	Assistant Clerk
4.	<p>To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2025</p> <p>The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p>To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments to include:</p> <p>a) To note current spend against budget:</p> <p>The Assistant Clerk had e-mailed out spend against budget on separate sheet.</p> <p>b) An update on the general management of the site since the last meeting:</p> <p>i) <u>Waiting list:</u></p> <p>There are currently 16 Brickhill residents waiting for either a full or half plot and 67 non-residents wanting a full or half</p>	

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	<p>plot. The Assistant Clerk is not adding any names to the non-resident list at the moment.</p> <p>5 vacant plots at the moment 142 & 143 needs clearing</p> <p>21a & 21b not been worked, rent unpaid and have not been able to contact them, letter sent terminating plot.</p> <p>215B just been terminated due ill health</p> <p>ii) Allotment Competition was a great success, and the winners were announced in the Brickhill Parish newsletter. In the next newsletter, mention the plot that grows food for the homeless plot.</p> <p>c) Any other business</p> <p>i) <u>Next Years Rent charges</u> was discussed and it was agreed for the concession charges to be removed, and the new fees will be £65.00 for a full plot and £41.00 for a half plot. Rent increases was agreed and the reason being the cost of running the allotments is going up. The running cost of the allotments last year was £10,625.00 (excluding VAT) and the rent income was £4,544.00.</p>	<p>Assistant Clerk</p> <p>Assistant Clerk</p>
6.	<p>Date of Next Meeting:</p> <p>Wednesday 12th November 2025 at 7.30pm in the Wren Room at St Mark's Church and Community Centre.</p>	

Approved and signed by

Chairman

12th November 2025