

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Brickhill Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd October 2012 at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Crofts, Wilkins and Waterhouse and 5 members of the public

Absent: Cllr Josephs (ill)

1	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ovenell (ill) It was resolved: to accept the apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><u>Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda</u> Cllr Waterhouse declared a personal interest in matters pertaining to the allotment site by way of his allotment tenancy</p>	
3	<p><u>Election of Chairman</u> Cllr wilkins proposed Cllr Crofts and this was seconded by Cllr Waterhouse. Cllr Crofts accepted his nomination and proceeded to chair the meeting. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Allotments and Working Spaces committee and explained how the meetings would be run according to our standing orders. If members of the public wished to speak they could address the council during the public open session but if they wanted a specific item on the agenda then they should contact the Allotments Officer at least 7 days prior to the next meeting to make this request.</p>	
4	<p><u>Public Open Session</u> <u>Taps</u> Had the council considered removing the taps during the winter period – to prevent their theft? In addition in future could replacement taps be made of plastic rather than the metal taps which could be stolen due to their scrap value. <u>Plot 12</u> This plot was in an extremely poor condition having been rotovated when the ground was too wet. Did the council know about this and what did they plan to do? The Allotments Officer was aware that the plot was in a very poor condition and had contacted the contractor to request that the front half of the plot is repaired once the weather improves early next year. <u>Plot 114</u> Could the Allotments Officer speak with the new tenant as a lot of money had been spent on clearing this plot and currently nothing has been done and it is already becoming overgrown again. <u>Allotments competition</u> The winners had been selected and were plot 104 Linda Jones Best Existing Plot and plot 210 Mr Flack for Best New Plot.</p>	Allotments Officer
5	<p><u>To confirm frequency of meetings for the committee</u> It was resolved that the committee should meet quarterly during the following months: February, May, August and November</p>	

6	<p><u>To consider quotes received regarding improving fencing for the allotment site</u></p> <p>Following the recent break-ins the local police had visited the site and suggested increasing the height of the fence in a few locations. Two quotes had been obtained for this work both in the region of £3,000. It was resolved not to improve the site fencing due to cost involved but also that no matter how high the fence thieves would still find a way to access the site (most recently thieves cut out a part of the gate at waist height so a higher fence would not have prevented this.) It was suggested that additional planting in areas where the fence was lower might be a more suitable option. One of the allotment tenants offered to provide further information which would be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
7	<p><u>To discuss and agree spouses transferred tenancy rights</u></p> <p>A few tenants currently work their plot with their partner/husband/wife and one tenant had asked what would happen to their plot if they should die? The Parish Council do not offer joint tenancies and the allotments officer was seeking formal guidance on this issue. It was resolved not to alter the tenancy agreements but that the council would treat individual cases sympathetically. However, it was noted that this does not mean that tenants could continue to transfer to next of kin in perpetuity i.e. pass through members of a family which would mean that the plot never become available. The plot could only be transferred once from husband to wife/partner or spouse.</p>	
8	<p><u>To receive an update on the 3 year Waveney Green management plan and to make any amendments if necessary</u></p> <p>The 3 year plan for Waveney Green had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Due to funding opportunities available a new play area would be installed in Spring 2013 which was actually on the plan for year 3. It was noted that two large sections of the footpaths had been repaired in this first year and that another large section of footpath would require replacement in Year 2. A replacement bin would be installed as part of the new play area and the council had employed a litter picker to look after the Green. The plan was amended as follows:</p> <p>Play Area – move into year 1 actions Wildflower Meadow – move into year 3 actions</p>	
9	<p><u>To review spending against budget for the allotments and Waveney Green</u></p> <p>Allotments budget – it was resolved to recommend the same budget figures as last year although it was noted that staff costs might increase as a salary review is under consideration and this would be finalised by the Finance Advisory Group in November. In addition a final bill from Anglian Water might mean that the amount allocated for Water be altered to reflect this.</p> <p>The budget for Waveney Green was then discussed and it was resolved to increase some headings but to reduce some other headings and to recommend the same budget as last year including to add £6K to Reserves.</p>	
10	<p>Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 19 February 2013, 7:00pm</p>	

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Approved by Chairman
19 February 2013