

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 3rd April 2008 at the Institute. Councillors Baxter, Barber, Blessett, Parr, Tony Jackson from the Allotments Association and the Clerk Mrs Sheila Kostyrka attended. In the absence of Cllr Neal, Cllr Barber volunteered to Chair the meeting.

31/08 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Neal (personal) Cllr Helyar did not attend.

32/08 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

Cllr Baxter - personal, wife is a tenant.

33/08 To adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2008 and to discuss any matters arising not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

It was confirmed that there are now nineteen people on the allotment waiting list. **Consideration was given to reintroduce "The Best Allotment Plot" and this will be recommended to Council.**

Mr Grooby will be asked to cut the grass at the Millennium Wood.

In order to encourage plot holders to stay and reduce the high turnover and also to help prevent neglected plots, the allotment association are looking at obtaining some equipment to cope with the heavy clay soil. They are putting together an application for a grant from the Lottery Awards for All for a rotavator, shredder, strimmer and powered harrow. If they are successful in their bid, they will need a secure container in which to store the equipment and we were asked at the end of February if the Council would consider allowing a small metal container on Plot 32 and this was referred to this committee for consideration. We are aware that a large yellow container appeared prior to any permission being given. Mr Jackson confirmed that he had been led to believe that consent had been given for the existing container as this was to be used as a meeting room and for shelter from the rain. The container had been on site since the end of last year and had been delivered by a vehicle with a crane to lift it off. Committee members and the Clerk were unaware of any permission being given and the Clerk would scan all previous minutes. Another secure container would be needed to store the equipment if they were successful with the lottery bid. As there is no permitted development allowed on allotment sites the enforcement officer from SKDC has confirmed that the existing container, because of its size, will need planning permission, which will involve a fee. If the container is moved to a more un-noticeable site and painted green it has been suggested that they could look more favourably on the application. As previous problems have happened at night, the committee agreed that the container would be more suitably placed out of site in the corner.

It was noted that the Allotment Show would not now take place on Sunday 31st August 2008, as the judge was unable to attend and another date is being considered. The Clerk will be notified of the date as soon as possible.

The minutes of 10.01.08 were then signed by Cllr Barber.

34/08 To report on the Allotment Inspections and observations.

It was therefore recommended to Council that Planning Permission should be applied for immediately and that the Metal "container" type structure should be moved and placed adjacent to the original allotment association hut, in the corner by the bordering hedges, sheltered from view and painted dark green as advised by SKDC. In future any such structures must meet with council approval before being purchased and sited. Overall the majority of allotments are in good shape despite the time of year and it appears that many allotment holders are managing their plots in a tidy and fruitful way. The committee had observed that plots 59, 56,40,31,26 28, and 16 are in need of a general tidy but anticipate that this will be addressed once the weather improves. Mr Jackson confirmed that the AA had also identified Plots 13, 16 and 43. Another site visit would be made at the end of May to check the condition and cultivation. The original AA shed needs to be removed, as do the trailers that are being stored permanently on site. There are various bits of debris, rolls of fencing and pallets lying around that need to be disposed of or utilised, and the allotment association were

asked to attend to this. The remaining roadway still needs to be completed and a quote for the work is outstanding. The grass will still need to be cut in June and September and the hedges will be cut in February.

35/08 Date of next meeting.

Thursday 17th July 2008

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.30pm

Allotment, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee Chairman

17th July 2008