

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held at 6.30 pm on Thursday 17th July 2008 at the Institute. Councillors Baxter, Barber, Blessett, Helyar, and Stevens attended with Mrs Hilary Gentle from the Allotments Association and the Clerk Mrs Sheila Kostyrka. In the absence of Cllr Neal, Cllr Barber volunteered to Chair the meeting.

1/08 To elect a Chairman

Cllr Neal had said that she was happy to remain as Chairman if proposed. There were no other nominations, and it was agreed unanimously to ask Cllr Neal to remain as Chairman.

2/08 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Neal and Parr (personal)

3/08 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

Cllr Baxter - personal, wife is a tenant.

4/08 To adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd April 2008 and to discuss any matters arising not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

It was confirmed that the date of the Allotment Show will still be on the afternoon of Sunday 31st August and Mrs Gentle will send the Clerk the timetable of events. Cllr Neal will be asked to attend to present the prize and Committee members were asked to attend. Cllr Helyar gave his apologies.

A quote had been received for the completion of the roadway has now been for £670.00 and it was unanimously agreed to **recommend to Council that the work be completed as soon as possible.**

Due to the weather conditions, extra cuts had been needed at the Millennium Wood, the allotments, and the river bank. Several residents had expressed their concerns about the untidiness of the riverbank, and the long grass causing lack of vision onto the main road. The EA had been contacted and had agreed to cut the banks before the end of June, but this had not yet been done, and to our knowledge they had only been twice this year to cut the top of the bank. £509 had now been spent to cut the banks and it was **recommended to Council** to arrange a meeting with the EA to discuss the ongoing problems to enable the committee to budget for the next financial year. It was therefore **recommended to Council** that we financially support the mowing of the river bank and continue to cut the top and one meter down the bank as a compromise. The contractor has been asked to re-quote, and an estimated amount would be about £112 per cut.

The minutes of 03.04.08 were then signed by Cllr Barber.

5/08 To receive correspondence referred to this Committee, and make recommendations to Council:

1. Clean & Green – introduction to new company offering dog bin and weekly emptying service.

The correspondence was noted by the committee, and Cllr Helyar was asked to confirm why the district council would not organise the disposal of dog waste.

2. Request to plant a memorial tree, or provide a bench in the Millennium Wood from local residents.

The committee considered this request, and as the wood is only half an acre and has already been fully planted with 180 trees, it was **recommended to Council** that local residents be asked to consider the purchase of a suitable rustic bench and plaque as an alternative.

3. Allotment Association – Clarification of requests made regarding AA Hut on Plot 32.

Cllr Blessett confirmed that it had been agreed that a hut could be placed on Plot 32; however, the Council had not expected to see a large yellow container on site. Clause 5.5) of the tenancy agreement clearly states "One small wooden shed and/or small greenhouse may be erected on the allotment garden. The tenant shall not erect any other building or permanent structure without first obtaining written consent of the Council." It was confirmed that the container had now been painted green. Cllr Blessett had spoken to the enforcement officer from SKDC on several occasions who now confirmed that although there is no permitted development allowed on allotment sites, as long as there are no strong objections, it would not be expedient to pursue the matter.

Cllr Stevens confirmed that she had had complaints from tenants, and as Council had already agreed that the hut should be moved to the corner of the site, proposed that we continue with this arrangement, which was unanimously agreed. Cllr Helyar agreed to obtain a quote, which he thought would be in the region of £100, and it was therefore **recommended to council** that the hut be moved at the Council's expense as soon as possible, and that the Allotments Association is asked that in future, any request should be made in writing via the Clerk.

4. Suggestion for Awareness Campaign for dog dirt from resident.

It was agreed that this suggestion would not be taken forward at this time, and the Clerk would keep it on file.

6/08 To report on the Allotment Inspections, observations, waiting list and forthcoming renewal.

Cllrs Blessett, Neal and the Clerk visited the allotments and identified the following plots as not being completely cultivated: 1, 16, 26, 28, 36, 38, 40, 41B and 53.

There were now 36 people on the waiting list, and some residents didn't feel that it was fair plots were not completely worked. It was unanimously agreed and **recommended to Council** that the Clerk would ask tenants in the forthcoming renewal letter that if they are finding it difficult to cultivate all of the plot, perhaps they would consider retaining a half plot, to allow the other half to be allocated to a resident on the long waiting list.

The original AA shed is still on site and needs to be removed, as does the trailer and there are various bits of debris and pallets lying around that need to be disposed of or utilised, and the Allotment Association were asked to attend to this. Mrs Gentle confirmed that a working party would work this weekend, and the old shed will remain on site as a trading shed.

It was recommended to Council that the forthcoming renewal takes place at the end of August as usual with a letter inviting residents to renew their tenancy for 2008/9 from 1st October at the current rate of £25.00 per year.

7/08 Date of next meeting.

16th October 2009 at 6.30 at the Institute. The budget for 2009/10 would be an agenda item, together with consideration for a Wild Insect Tower for the Millennium Wood (Cllr Stevens) and Deepings in Bloom (Cllr Baxter).

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.18pm

**Signed - Allotment, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee Chairman
Mrs Pauline Neal
16.10.08**