

ALLOTMENTS, FOOTPATHS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee held at 6pm on Thursday 16th October 2008 at the Institute. Councillors Baxter, Barber, Blessett, Neal and Stevens attended with Mr Tony Jackson from the Allotments Association and the Clerk Mrs Sheila Kostyrka.

AGENDA

07/08 To receive apologies for absence

Cllr Helyar did not attend.

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

Cllr Baxter, Personal – related to Allotment Tenant.

09/08 To adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2008 and to discuss any matters arising not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

It was **recommended** to Council that an amount of **£50.00** be considered for material to build a Wild Insect Tower at the Millennium Wood for 2009-10. Contact could be made with the Scout/Guides to take the project forward and builders and the recycling centre could be approached to source suitable material.

It was **recommended** to Council that an amount of **£500** be considered for Deepings in Bloom for 2009-10 as Cllr Baxter reported that we qualify under the small town category. Cllr Stevens agreed to set up a meeting with clubs, societies, garden centres, and other suitable contacts, and would report back to the next meeting.

An email from the Allotment Association had been received too late to be taken into consideration as separate agenda items, but continuing concerns about security had been raised with produce being stolen particularly from plots 55-60 being near to the footpath. It was noted that the contractor had been advised not to cut the hedges to allow sufficient growth to prevent access onto the allotment site. Mr Jackson suggested "Plot Holders Only" signs could be erected, but this was not considered effective by the committee as it could not be enforced. A new gate would also be non viable. Further consideration was given to making the site more secure, and it was agreed that the AA would continue to report problems to the police and the situation would be monitored and reported at the next meeting.

10/08 To receive correspondence referred to this committee, and make recommendations to Council:

1. Letter regarding permission to catch rabbits on allotments(Ref Council 25.09.08 87.10)

Mr Jackson reported that some plots were effected more then others, depending what crops were grown. The farmer on the surrounding farmland had also agreed not to store corn in the barn which would also help the current situation. Mr Chambers had confirmed to the Clerk that there were no rabbit burrows on site. Advice had been taken from Natural England who had confirmed that the responsibility lay with the adjoining land owners to control the rabbits, and as this was already being done, a complaint to Natural England would be pointless. It was also noted that the Parish Council, as the Landlord, could not give permission for access onto each individual tenanted plot. It was therefore **recommended** to Council that no further action be taken.

2. To consider wild flowers on roadside verges (Ref Council 31.07.08 47.08)

No existing wild flower verges were identified in the area, but the committee **recommended** to Council that such areas be identified for future planting as these areas could now become protected.

3. Email from allotment tenant regarding stones on allotment plot.

It was confirmed that an apology had been made and the stones removed.

11/08 To report on the allotment inspections and observations and to arrange the relocation of the container on Plot 32.

It was observed that the grass would not need cutting again this year. The maintenance operative had been asked to fill in the pot holes on site. A dumped trailer was still in the car park area, and the AA was asked to identify the owner and request removal. The maintenance operative would be asked to weed spray the existing roadways and replace the missing numbers on three plots. Some tenants needed to be asked to stay within the plot boundary. Plots 27a, 28, 36, 38, 39, 40, 41A&B, 58 and 59 all need more cultivation. It was **recommended** to Council, that in view of the long waiting list, and the nil response for tenants to give up half of their un-worked plots, a years notice to quit would be given which would be enforced if no improvement was made.

12/08 To consider the ongoing roadway and make recommendations to Council

In error, double the quantity of planings had been delivered. It was therefore **recommended** to Council that the remaining planings be purchased at cost price for £250.00 and the roadway be extended as far as possible at no further cost to the council.

13/08 To report on the allotment renewal and waiting list

53 tenants had paid their rent, and 11 rents were still outstanding. No one had responded to the request for half plots to be made available, and there were still 42 people on the waiting list. It was therefore **recommended** to Council that any future available plot be split into two plots, and a rent of £15 per plot be charged to help cover the extra administration costs.

14/08 To consider the dates and arrangements for the 2009 Parish Walks and make recommendations to Council (Ref Council 25.08.08 71.2)

In view of the time, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

15/08 To consider the quotes for the riverbank and make recommendations to Council

Four quotes had been received. It was **recommended** to Council that the most expensive quote be excluded. Due to the variable gradients and ground levels, the remaining contractors would be asked what equipment they would be using to ensure the best quality and value for the job is achieved when appointing a contractor. This item was deferred to the next meeting.

16/08 To report on the inspection on the Millennium Wood and make recommendations to Council

Due to the time, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

17/08 To review the budget, consider expenditure for 2009-10 and make recommendations to Council.

It was **recommended** to Council, that the F&GP Committee consider the following budget at their precept meeting:

Allotment, Footpath and Open Spaces Maintenance: £2,200.00

River Bank Maintenance ££2,100.00, Insect Tower £50.00

Deepings in Bloom £500.00, Bulbs and wild flower seeds £100.00.

TOTAL BUDGET £4,950.00

18/08 To confirm the date for the next meeting.

To be confirmed.

The Meeting Finished at 7.15pm

