

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee held at 6.00 pm on Thursday 4th June 2009 at the Millennium Wood and the Allotments sites. Councillors Blessett, Parr and Stevens attended with the Clerk Mrs Sheila Kostyrka. In the absence of Cllr Neal, Cllr Stevens volunteered to Chair the meeting.

1 To elect a Chairman

It was proposed by Cllr Parr, seconded by Cllr Stevens and agreed that Cllr Blessett be Chairman. Cllr Neal was thanked for previously chairing the committee.

2 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Neal (holiday), Dilks & Baxter (work), Cllr Helyar did not attend.

3 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

None.

4 To adopt the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2009 and to discuss any matters arising not considered elsewhere on the agenda.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

The Clerk had taken photographs of footpath 10 and written to the Enforcement Officer again and was awaiting a reply. It was noted from the Parish Walk on 03.06.09 that it was still in a very bad state, and the Clerk was asked to make further contact. The Clerk will write to the Drainage Board explaining the collapse of footpath number 11 as LCC have denied responsibility. The maintenance operative was asked to trim the branches.

The Insect Tower will be built shortly in the back of the Millennium Wood and a notice displayed on it explaining its function.

The Highways Officer had confirmed the location of the dog bins at The Cross and Park Road. However, it was decided not to place a bin at the scheduled ancient monument as this would be better situated on the grass verge near the car park entrance to the youth centre. The Clerk will confer with the highways inspector again. Meanwhile, **it was recommended to Council that three dog bins be ordered from Wybone at an inclusive cost of £646.61.**

A small shed would be transferred onto Plot 32b from a nearby plot. The plot would be rotivated and split into four sections. Raised beds would be constructed. A Licence to Occupy had been agreed with Sense for one year. An appeal would be made for tools in a letter to tenants and to the community through our newsletter. The Grant application for £500 had been received.

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

a) To consider a letter from the AA referred from Council.

It was recommended to Council to offer a Licence to Occupy with a year's security of tenure as with Sense on 32B.

As previously minuted, the council are not prepared to offer a tenancy agreement to the AA. The AA is currently occupying the land unlawfully. **It was recommended to council that Cllrs Blessett and Dilks arrange to meet with representatives of the association as requested by them and to offer them a year's security of tenure, to confirm the proposed agreement on plot 32A, to clarify the use of Plot 32B and to ask for their support for ongoing initiatives.**

6 To inspect the Millennium Wood and consider any further incentives.

The bin was still outside the wood and the Clerk was asked to confirm the collection day and ask for it to be returned to its base. **It was recommended to Council that the picnic table be located at the back of the wood.**

It was also recommended to Council that the hedge along the fence be planted out further with spring bulbs. Cllr Stevens will provide the hedging.

7 To inspect the Allotments, and report on the waiting list and arrangements for the forthcoming renewal.

Two plots had been given up; one due to intimidation which was continuing with several tenants a more complaints had been received. 33 people were now on the waiting list and the policy of splitting plots in two for new tenants was working well. The plots need re-numbering. **It is recommended to Council that the agreement for the six identified plots that were not cultivated and covered in weeds would not be renewed unless a significant improvement was made. The Clerk will send warning letters.** The AA would be asked to remove the hut on site which was in a bad state of repair. Concerns were expressed that a large bonfire had taken place on 32A which contained remnants of wood. The AA would be reminded of clause 12) which had been added at the recommendation of the Environment Agency as it was the law. The renewal is to go out as usual at end of August and rent to remain at £25 double plot £15 half plot.

8 Date of next meeting.

Thursday 10th September 6pm Precept meeting.