



BRIERCLIFFE WITH EXTWISTLE PARISH COUNCIL
ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, 5th February 2018

7:30pm at the Community Centre, Jubilee Street

Present: Councillor Hawkes (Chair), Councillors Bailey, and Kelly.

Others: S. Watson (Clerk), Stephen Hayward (Allotment Manager), Michael Greenwood (Lengthsman), Councillor Vincent (Non-Voting) Alan and Ann Firminger (Allotment Society) plus 4 tenants.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed everyone

A17/18/105 Apologies for absence and reasons given

Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillor Simon Dack who was unwell and Councillor Frost who had family visitors.

A17/18/106 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of Interest.

A17/18/107 Formally adjourn the meeting to allow for public participation

RESOLVED: That the meeting is adjourned to allow for Public Participation.

A17/18/108 Tenant questions submitted in advance

There were no questions in advance.

A17/18/109 Allotment Society Report

The Society reported that there were complaints about the condition of the main path and complaints if people parked at the end of the road, so as not to use the path. It was suggested that the holes could be filled by volunteers working with the Councillors. The Society reported that there were problems with the condition of the allotment area as a whole.

A tenant of the new allotments complained that the path was dangerous and provided pictures, it was suggested that the problem was a blocked drain, however this was not agreed by all present. It was suggested that professional advice is sought on what would be the best solution and a site visit would be carried out.

The application for improvements to the Woodland Walk pathways has been submitted.

A white van has been seen on the allotments trying to sell generators and a registration number is to be sought.

There were no further questions.

A17/18/110 Other questions at the Chair's discretion

There were no further questions.

A17/18/111 Formally reconvene the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the meeting is reconvened.

A17/18/112 Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4th December 2017 were approved as a correct record.

A17/18/113 Chair's Report

The Chair reported that the end of Harrison Street was an unmaintained public highway and, as such, parking could not be prevented. The delivery of chippings has been sorted.

Trees in the top end garden plot have grown large causing shade, it was agreed that these could be removed if the costs are met by the residents.

A17/18/114 Allotment Manager's Report

The Allotment Manager provided a report, it was suggested that tenants could provide plot numbers themselves and include this in the rent letters. It was also suggested that Ward Opportunity Funds could provide the plot numbers.

A rebate request was approved at a 3rd reduction, subject to the minimum rent level of £20.00.

The BAGS Hut trees will need to wait for the next financial year.

54 Burnley Road will be charged the same as the neighbouring plot.

It was agreed that a new lock and keys was not required for the barrier.

Due to a refusal by the Lengthsman to use Lengthsman hours to carry out allotment work it was agreed that the £380 credit currently with the Lengthsman would be repaid to the Council.

The Clerk outlined the legal advice obtained that required a 12 month notice to terminate pen tenancies with an option to re-engage. The requirement for new tenancies is to ensure they refer to the new Allotment Policies. It was suggested that the new tenancies were excessively bureaucracy and intended to purely remove an individual tenants stock. An individual tenant stated that the Council could not force tenants to sign a new tenancy, this was agreed however it would result in that tenant's tenancy being terminated on 31st March 2019.

Councillor Kelly felt it necessary to leave the meeting, this left the meeting inquorate and the Chair closed the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 5th March 2018 and will start at 7:30.