



BRIERCLIFFE WITH EXTWISTLE PARISH COUNCIL
ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, 17th March 2011

Present Councillor Lishman (in the chair), Bailey, Kinnear, Meeks, Royle, S. Watson (Clerk).

Others: Mr J Greenwood Allotment Manager, M Greenwood (Lengthsman) and 3 Allotment tenants

1. Apologies

Apologies were submitted by Councillor Prince and Councillor Frost.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on the 17th February were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

A resident has taken on the 'old school' allotment and requested if this could be classed as a garden but this has been declined. Jason Hargreaves has now taken on the plot she has vacated.

The allotment fencing issues have been investigated and prices for fencing varied from £56 for 3ft plastic coated to £70 for 4ft special coated. It was recommended that the 3ft plastic coated fencing be used, total cost will be £130 for materials and approx. £180 for labour. If this is co-ordinated with the next allotment skip the waste material can be easily disposed.

RESOLVED: That 3ft plastic coated fencing be used to make the necessary repairs.

The street light on Harrison Street has not been resolved and remains on in the daytime.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact the County Council regarding the street light.

Drainage at the Bungalows is still a problem and a letter was to be sent to the Environment Directive.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact the Environment Directive about solutions for drainage at the Bungalows.

The provision of Road Planings to provide repairs to the allotment paths needed to be progressed.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to check on the provision of road planings.

4. Allotment's Society Report

The Allotment Society asked for the road planings to be chased up as a priority. The Society has had a recent meeting at which they received a good input and had a couple of new members in attendance. A meeting is arranged for the 27th March at which the Society will encourage new members, Membership is needed by the 13th April and Kelvin will send out renewal letters. Currently they Society has 35 members of the 70 allotment tenants and wish to recruit more tenants as the more members they have the better their chances are of securing additional funding. The society's intention is to be the method of communication between the allotment tenants and the Parish Council.

The Society requests that when the District Council is doing work that removes flagstones, could they recycle these rather than them being dumped.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council to ascertain if removed flagstones could be used by the Allotment Society, Cllr Royle to follow up with Duncan Read.

It was noted that households goods had previously been put in the allotment skips and this should not happen.

A resident had raised a question at the previous Parish Council meeting stating section 30 of the Environment Regulations, after research it was noted that the resident may have been referring to Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act. The Borough Council had been contacted regarding this and the response was that, as the skips were community skips they did not require covering or a hard surface.

It was noted that no regulations were being contravened and that the Parish Council was operating legally in the provision of skips.

5. Paths around the Allotments

The Chair announced a piece of good news that the widening and repairs to the Harrison Street paths had been approved through the Wards Opportunity Fund and work would commence shortly.

A walkabout has been held and it was reported that planings to provide a disabled access to the top path would be a priority location.

RESOLVED: That the priority list for planings once available will be Harrison Street path and the Top Path. Any available ash from the mill is to be used by the 'Kissing Gate'.

6. Douglas Road Garden Extension

No.s 7 and 9 have signed agreements, plots 1,3 and 5 have been offered to No 7, however no. 1 has now requested plot 1. The gentleman interested in plot 11 has declined the offer and has requested the land at the quarry site, although the residents at the bungalows have indicated their wish to take on this land.

It was suggested that plot 11 could be offered as an allotment site, however it was suggested that a different rental price between garden rents and allotments rents for the plot could cause problem. No 13 had queried the possible removal of trees and had been asked to put the request in writing to the Council, no request had been received to date.

RESOLVED: That the Allotment Chair and Clerk contact the residents of Douglas Road who have yet to respond.

7. Garages

7.1 Turning Circle

It was reported that the Public Works Loan has been approved for the new garages. It was suggested that the Council needs to obtain 3 quotes for the work, however this has already been done for both the work on the bases and the garages.

RESOLVED: That Chair, Cllr Baliey and the Clerk to meet at the end of the meeting to discuss the quotes received, at this meeting it was agreed that the Clerk circulate the quotes received for a decision at the next Parish Council meeting.

A question was asked regarding the foundations already provided due to the need for a steep ramp to the garages. It was explained that this was due to the elevation of the land and the requirement to provide level foundations. It was also noted that the banking is solid bedrock so will not suffer from slippage and that drainage can be achieved by a chipping filled ditch.

7.2 Garage Plots

Mr Hortin will commence installation of his garage soon.

The gentleman who has moved out of the area and still rents a garage was mentioned

RESOLVED: That the RFO write to the gentleman requesting contact details of the new owner giving a specific deadline for a response, at which stage the garage will be taken back by the Council.

8. Allotment Site Inspections.

It was noted that the allotments are looking good at present and that there had been some big improvements on a number of allotments. A date for an inspection will be agreed at the next meeting of the Allotment Committee.

9. Finance

The Clerk provided a breakdown of the spend to date. The allotment budget for the year is £5,393 and to date £4,565 has been spent. A water bill is still outstanding therefore the budget is mainly spent.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk provide a financial breakdown for each meeting including an amount remaining column.

10. Waiting List

The Clerk provided a waiting list for the meeting, it was noted that all allotments were filled. A query was raised regarding a pen that had been charged at a garden rate, although historically it had been charged as a pen for at least the last 10 years.

RESOLVED: That the area be reclassified as a pen on the list and the RFO to repay any overpayments received on the plot.

11. Maintenance

The boundary fence is suffering from holes on Mr Pearson and Mr Waddington's plots and the chickens are escaping.

RESOLVED: John Greenwood to advise of the cost of repairs and report back to the next meeting.

The fencing around the tip area has been repaired and John Greenwood and Cllr Frost have had a meeting with Lee Collins of the Environment Agency who has provided 3 options, further details will be available at the Parish Council Meeting. A copy of the deeds has also been sent to the Borough Council for advice. The Parish Council Chair has received considerable correspondence on the issue and the levels of pollution from the site are not high.

Cllr Frost is to provide 3 quotes for the tree felling work at the back of the garages. It was suggested that Bootstrap may be able to offer some assistance with this issue as the Council owns its own Chipper. It was noted that the Allotment Committee can allocate spend up to £150, spend above £150 needs to be supported by 3 quotes.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to contact Bootstrap to see if any assistance can be offered.

12. Extension of Allotments

This issue is no longer relevant so it was agreed it will be removed from future agendas.

13. Storage Facility

John Greenwood to investigate the provision of electricity to the area prior to progressing the scheme.

Any Other Business

A letter has been received from Lindsay Couch requesting a garage plot.

A letter has been received from Grace Barrett regarding the misuse of pathways by horse riders.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to the stable establishments asking them to notify horse owners to act responsibly and the misuse of pathways by horse riders is to be considered as a PACT priority at the next Parish Council Meeting.

RESOLVED: Douglas Road Plots to be an item at the next Parish Council meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be on Thursday 21st April, 7:30pm at the Community Centre. The Chair is not available for the meeting therefore it was agreed that Cllr Frost would chair the April meeting.