

Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The Rackliff Centre Rusthall on 20th March 2017 at 8:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Benoy, Cllr Edwards and Cllr Moore

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs S Denne – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Yes

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting** - None
2. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Punyer
3. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Benoy has an allotment plot.
4. Minutes of the Allotment Meeting held on the 19th December 2016 were agreed.
5. **Closure of Primrose Project** – Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that the Primrose project would be closing at the end of March. Initial thoughts are that one of the remaining sheds be used as a ‘club house’ for the plot holders and perhaps a shop. The Clerk mentioned that someone might be interested in renting the area out as a garden nursery. Any further suggestions on how the site could be best used to be emailed to the clerk.
6. **Compost Loo** – A plot holder had discovered that lottery funding could be requested by the Parish Council for a compost loo. *It was agreed that the Clerk would make enquiries about funding for a compost loo to go on the Wickham Garden site.* The estimated cost of the loo would be about £10,000.
7. **Offer of help for new plot holders** – The Clerk reported that she had received an offer from a plot holder, willing to help, along with other plot holders if possible, new plot holders to get their plots up and running. *Clerk to email all plot holders to see if anyone is willing to help in the venture.*
8. **Southwood Road Allotments** – The chairman reported that there had been a spate of break-ins at the Southwood Rd allotments. Nothing had been reported stolen but fences and gates had been kicked down and many shed doors broken. It is hope with a new fence, new solid gates, blanking off the gate into Primrose and a prickly hedge will deter vandals and trespassers. Both oak trees overhanging the site will be pruned. The cost of the fence and gates and also the repair of another gate will cost approx. £490.00. It was agreed to have one gate repaired at the cost of £45.00 but to consider a 6ft fence around part of the perimeter and barbed wire. *Cllr Benoy to contact fencing contractor for quote.* Clerk advised that any barbed wire would require signage warning of its use.
9. **Chairman’s Report** – Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that CCTV was to be fitted on The Rackliff Centre and if considered successful the Parish Council would be looking into the feasibility of having it installed at the Southwood Road allotments.
10. **Clerk’s Report** – Clerk informed members that the covering for the vacant plots had been delivered and that Chris had been given a list of the plots to be covered. She asked the meeting if any spare bricks and similar could be put on the communal plots of Southwood Road and Wickham Gardens, for Chris to use to weigh down the covering. She informed the meeting that the PC had been offered some manure, cost and time of delivery to be arranged. The first inspection of the year is to be carried out at the end of April. Clerk received an email from a plot owner asking if the times stipulated on the tenancy agreement to have a bonfire could be amended. The members, after speaking to the meeting, thought this unnecessary. The Clerk informed the members that Southwood Road site had 7 vacant plots and Wickham Gardens had 5. Cllr Moore suggested a notice on the noticeboard. *Clerk to devise.*
11. **Open session for questions from the public:** A plot holder reminded the Committee that a water tank needed repair before the water was turned back on. *Cllr Benoy to speak to plumber. Cllr Benoy and Clerk will turn on water to other two sites within the next week.* Rats reported to be seen at one site, *Cllr Benoy to contact Wild at Hart to ask their advice on best time of year to deal with the problem.* A plot holder complained of rubbish brought onto another plot. *Clerk to inspect the following morning.* The fruit trees on the communal plot require pruning as blocking out light from adjoining plots. *Clerk to organise.*

The next meeting will be held on Monday 19th June 2017

Meeting Closed at 21.00

