

Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in

The Rackliff Centre Lower Green Road on 16th September 2019 at 8.00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Smith (Chairman), Cllr Edwards, Cllr Ellicott, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Funnell, Mr Benoy and Mrs French

OFFICER PRESENT: Su Denne

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Members of the public present.

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting** – - No-one present intended to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.
2. **To receive and approve apologies for absence:** None
3. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests-** Cllr Smith, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Ellicott, Mr Benoy and Mrs French have allotment plots.
4. **Declarations of Lobbying.** None
5. **Minutes -** To resolve that the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on **17th June 2019** were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman signed them as a true record.
12. **Open session for questions from the public:** The Chairman decided that the session for the public should be moved to near the beginning of the meeting.
 - a) Members were asked if tree could be pruned or felled as it was being used as a way in to the Southwood Road allotments.
 - b) The Clerk was asked for an update on the pruning of the cherry tree on the extension. She apologised for the delay and agreed to sort it out.
 - c) The members were asked if anything could be done about the badgers. The Clerk informed them, that regretfully, there wasn't. It was mentioned that a sonic deterrent might work. Cllr Ellicott to send details to Clerk to pass on to plot holders.
 - d) Members asked if a skip could be ordered for Wickham Gardens. Committee to consider at December meeting.
6. **Budget 2020 – 2021** – It was agreed that the budget for the grass cutting would be £5000 and the budget for maintenance would increase to £7000. This would be required to improve the fencing at Wickham Gardens and installation of extra water taps.
7. **Update on extra water taps** – The Clerk had received no communication from the proposed contractor. Cllr Edwards to contact him and the item to be postponed until the December meeting.

8. Site Visits –The Chairman requested a site visit for the Committee and Clerk to look at the ‘dump’ on the Southwood Road allotments, to make a decision on how to tackle the vegetation. He also requested a site visit to inspect those plots that had had little to no work carried out on them this season. Due to there now being a waiting list, it was felt that plot holders who had not tended their plots during 2019 should be given 14 days to bring their plot up to the standard required. Those failing to do so would not be invoiced for the forthcoming rental year and their tenancy would be terminated. Site visit 26th September at 0930.

9. Results of Competition – Cllr Smith announced the winners of the allotment competition:

First Prize for Best Plot Mr and Mrs Greenfield Southwood Road

Runner up Mr Tapp Southwood extension

First prize for newcomer Mr Brett Southwood extension

Runner up Mr Webb Southwood Road

They were all given a certificate and the winners received a £20 voucher for the Venture and the runners up received a £10 voucher for the Venture.

10. Clerk’s Report – The Clerk reported that invoices may be sent out slightly later this year due to the plot inspection. She informed the members that there were now 5 people on the waiting list.

11. Chairman’s Report - The Chairman had nothing further to add.

Date of Next Meeting –16th December 2019

Meeting Closed at 20.30

..... Chairman

Dated