

Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The Rackliff Centre Rusthall on 19th March 2018 at 8:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Edwards, Cllr Duncombe and Cllr Smith

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs S Denne – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Yes

Due to the resignation of Cllr Benoy from the Parish Council a new Chairman for the Committee was required.

Cllr Doug Smith was voted to become the Allotment Committee Chairman.

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting -

None

2. Apologies for Absence – None

3. Declarations of Interest – Cllr Smith has an allotment plot

4. Declarations of Lobbying.

5. Minutes: To resolve that the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 18th December 2017 were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman signed them as a true record

6. Vacancy for plot holders to join the Committee – Plot holders Suzanne French and Richard Benoy volunteered to become, non-voting, Committee members.

7. Ground maintenance and grass cutting contract – The Clerk informed the meeting that the contract will be announced shortly.

8. Finance – The Clerk informed the members how much the income and outgoings for the allotments had been for the year so far.

9. Southwood Road Site – i. Shipping Container – Cllrs smith and Edwards spoke about the proposal to have a shipping container on the site, to replace the dilapidated sheds. Unsure of possible siting of container due to delivery requirements. It was agreed, however, that plot 53 should be cleared of all rubbish and dilapidated shed. This would require a working party. Rubbish to be burnt on site as much as possible. The cost of a 40 ft container would be about £1600, to include delivery. Mr Benoy was concerned about the extra cost and asked for assurance that plot holders would not have to pay for it, with increased rental rates. He was assured that this would not be the case, but was reminded that the rental rates were due to increase in October, as already agreed. The members to continue researching and report back in June.

ii. Rubbish left on site – The Clerk informed the members that an allotment holder who had given up their plot had not cleared it completely and had left a gas bottle in the shed. Despite attempts to contact him, the Clerk had been unable to speak to him. The clerk also informed the members that disappointedly a plot holder had left rubbish at the middle gate of the site, which included a box of bottles containing gardening chemicals.

- 10. Southwood Road Extension site** – i. Trees – Clerk informed members that she had approached tree surgeons for quotes for work required on the oak trees on the site.
- 11. Wickham Gardens** – i. Pruning of communal fruit trees – Clerk informed members that a plot holder, Mrs Caney – Anderson has kindly offered to prune the trees on the communal plot.
- 12. Allotment Holders Competition** – It was agreed that an allotment holder’s competition will be held, for the first time this year. The categories will be: This year’s newcomers, Plot holders who are retired, Plot holders who are not retired and a children’s patch. Clerk to draw up an entry form, confirm dates, and inform plot holders. Members to discuss awards, which will be presented at the BBQ. No members of the allotment committee or the RPC or their families will be permitted to enter.
- 13. Chairman’s Report** - No report as newly appointed.
- 14. Open session for questions from the public:** There were no questions.

The next meeting for the Allotment Committee will be 18th June 2018. The BBQ will be the 21st July, at Southwood Road Allotments.

The meeting closed at 21.00