

Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The United Reformed Church Rusthall on 17th March 2015 at 8:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Benoy (Chairman) Cllr Edwards (V.Chairman) Cllr Mrs Codd,.

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs S Denne – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Yes

1. **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Lawrence and F. Longhurst
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Benoy has an allotment.
3. Minutes of the Allotment Meeting held on the 16th December 2014 were agreed.
4. **Water** –
 - i. when to turn the water back on – It was agreed to turn the water on at Easter.
 - ii. Capping of hose tap found on Southwood Road Allotment- It was agreed that this should be done. *Cllr Benoy to arrange.*
 - iii. Leak from water butt near Primrose project to be repaired. *Cllr Benoy to contact plumber.*
5. **Notice Boards** - To discuss who will erect the two notice boards. Allotment holders at Southwood Road extension agreed to erect the notice board for their site. *Cllrs Benoy and Edwards to erect the one for Wickham Gardens.*
6. **To discuss hiring of skips in 2015**- After much discussion it was decided that the *Clerk would enquire on how much skips of various sizes would cost and also email allotment holders to enquire if they would like a skip.*
7. **To consider holding an allotment holders BBQ** – It was agreed to hold a BBQ at Southwood Road on the 18th July 2015.
8. **Chairman's Report** – Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that rats had been sited at the extension and that the pest controller would be putting down four traps. He then went to say that fencing was required by the Primrose project and on the extension. The cost of fencing and labour would be about £200.00 on the main site and £350.00 on the extension. This will go to the Finance Committee for approval. Cllr Benoy discussed how best to administer the smart water and it was decided to arrange some sessions for allotment holders. It was also agreed to consider putting up signage on all sites, making people aware that equipment was tagged. Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that someone maybe interested in keeping bees on the allotments, *he would investigate further.* He then went on to thank Cllr Clare Codd for all her work and commitment to the allotments and wished her well in her retirement from the Parish Council.
9. **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk informed the members that all rents had been collected. She also informed them that both sites in Southwood Road were full and there was now a waiting list. There are still five plots available at the Wickham Gardens site. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Council were looking for people to tender for the grass cutting and maintenance contract. Details on the website and from the Clerk.

10. Open session for questions from the public – A plot holder asked if anything could be done about badgers. Another plot holder said foxes were also an issue. It was reported that fencing at the first gate and the five bar gate of the Southwood Road main site needed attention. The Committee was considering planting more pyrocanthia. A plot holder requested that a reminder be sent to all plot holders, reminding them that all gates should be kept locked all the time. *Clerk to send out a reminder.*

The Meeting ended at 20.55