

Minutes of a Allotment Committee Meeting held in The United Reformed Church Rusthall on 17th June 2013 at 7:30pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Benoy (Chairman) Cllr Lawrence (Vice Chair) Cllr Mrs Codd and Cllr Edwards

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs S Denne – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Yes

1. Election of Chair – Cllr Benoy and Election of Vice Chair Cllr Lawrence

2. Apologies for Absence - None.

3. Declarations of Interest - Cllr Benoy and Cllr Lawrence both have allotment plots. Cllr Edwards is a trustee for the RCYP.

4. Allotment Committee Meetings - i. The Councillors decided to hold a meeting every 3 months.

ii. Meetings to be held on the 3rd Tuesday in September 2013, December 2013, March 2014, June 2014.

5. Allotment Inspections - i. The councillors decided to carry out inspections of the allotments twice a year.

ii. A Councillor will visit the three sites in April and October

6. Boundary Fences - i. Boundaries at Southwood Road and Wickham gardens need to be investigated.

ii. *Clerk to contact TWBC with regard to both boundaries and Cllr Benoy and Cllr Lawrence to inspect boundary at Wickham Gardens.*

7. Scrap metal - i. The Committee to investigate where allotment holders can put any scrap metal for collection.

ii. Arrangements for collection, not decided but maybe a notice on each gate.

8. Update on Grass Cutting – The communal area had been cut at Southwood Road and Clerk to arrange cutting of brambles on Southwood Extension, which will then be kept tidy by plot holders on the extension. Also all vacant plots to be trimmed.

9. Notice Boards - i. Clerk to obtain a quote from local resident.

ii. The relocation of the Southwood Road Board has yet to be confirmed.

iii. Notices relating to the allotments only may be placed on the boards, but with the permission of the Clerk first.

10. RCYP - i. The councillors discussed giving the RCYP a discount for their plots, as this had always been the case with TWBC

ii. Cllr Codd proposed that RCYP be charged £39.50 per annum (the same as last year's rent) unless the rental per rod is increased. The majority agreed.

- 11. Clerk's Report and Finances** – The Clerk reported that not all rentals money had been received, despite reminders and telephone calls. She also said a high percentage of plot owners had not marked their plots with their number and this was causing problems for the councillors, contractors and other tenants. Expenditure on the allotments so far has been £747
- 12. Open session for questions from the public**
- a) There will be a social event organised, with BBQ, on the Southwood Allotment site, for all allotment holders. This will hopefully be held in August.
 - b) A plot holder wanted to know if bees could be kept on the site. *Clerk to investigate.*
 - c) A plot holder asked when the tenancy agreements would be sent out. Clerk informed the meeting that as soon as all monies received then tenancy agreements would be delivered.
 - d) A tenant from Southwood extension complained that part of the fence had been cut to enable a plot holder's children to enter and exit to the park. He informed the committee that TWBC had been told of this. *Clerk to investigate.*
 - e) The committee was asked about the possibility of having a website for the allotments. *Clerk to speak to Parish Council's webmaster.*

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm