

**Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The United Reformed Church
Rusthall on 26th September 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. **Apologies for Absence** - None.
2. **Declarations of Interest** - Cllr Benoy and Cllr Lawrence both have allotment plots.
3. Minutes of the Allotment Meeting held on the 17th June 2013 were agreed.
4. **Bee hives on Allotments** – parish Council had been approached by an experienced bee keeper, who would like to keep bees on one of the allotment sites. *The Chair and Clerk to look into it* as there are health and safety issues as well as risk assessment to be considered.
5. **Rent amount for coming year** – Cllr Codd proposed that the rent would remain the same for the next year. Cllr Edwards seconded it.
6. **Notice Board for Wickham Gardens** – Mr Woodcraft has volunteered to make a notice board for the Wickham Gardens allotments. *Chair to discuss with him. Chair and Cllr Lawrence to discuss and carry out the* re-sighting of the Southwood Road allotments. Notices for the Southwood extension will be tacked to the gate.
7. **Badgers** – There appears to have been an increase in problems caused by the badgers this year on the allotment sites. Each plot holder to do what they can to deter the badgers. *Clerk to invite a badger specialist to speak at a forthcoming meeting*
8. **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
9. **Open session for questions from the public** –
 - a) A request that gate lock at Southwood Road be altered, as awkward. Chair to inspect.
 - b) When were the latest invoices to be sent? Clerk informed meeting that they were ready.

The meeting ended at 8:30 pm