



CHURCHILL PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5th of March 2018 at 7.30 pm

Present :-

Councillors Sue List (Chair of Committee), Trudy Silverton, Bill Caruthers and Ruth Bruton

Co-Opted Members :- Sian White (Field 2) and Annabel Thomas (Field 1)

Also present : Martin Dolton – Clerk of the Council, Ann Boote – Assistant Clerk, and 3 members of the public.

1718/OS/034 Apologies for absence.

Councillor Brenden Hill.
Mrs Ruth Lamb (Allotment Plot Holder)

1718/OS/035 Declarations of Interest.

Whilst no pecuniary interest would be gained, both Councillors Sue List and Ruth Bruton declared a non-pecuniary interest in Allotment matters as they are both allotment plot holders.

1718/OS/036 To confirm and sign the notes of the Inquorate meeting held on 2nd October 2017.

The notes of the Inquorate meeting held on 2nd October 2017 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

1718/OS/037 Public Participation

A resident whose property borders the allotment site spoke to the meeting about the hedge that borders the site and his property. He emphasized the planning conditions and the need for the hedge to be maintained as a hedge and asked that members clarify the future care and cutting of the hedge.

ALLOTMENTS

1718/OS/038 Budget vs spend update year to date

The detail of the spending against budget to date for the allotments was presented to the committee. No issues arose.

1718/OS/039 To consider whether permission to keep Bees should be granted on allotments

Members had been circulated with a document containing the detail of what would

be involved in permitting bees to be kept. Councillor Sue List also informed the meeting of the results of a survey she had conducted with all plot holders taking part. Only one plot holder had raised objection, and there was therefore a large majority agreeing to the introduction of bees on the site if persons so wished to provide them. Discussion took place relating to the strict requirements and guidelines for bee keeping, and the need to amend the current tenancy agreement.

RESOLVED:-

The parish Council will in future permit the keeping of bees on the allotment site, subject to each individual that wishes to do so making application to the council (This committee) showing that they have the required training, facilities, knowledge and insurance to do so. Each such application to be judged individually on merit. The tenancy agreement wording for all tenants will be amended accordingly.

1718/OS/40 To consider permitting nature friendly provisions being permitted e.g. bird boxes, insect retreats etc

Members had been made aware that arrangements could be made for the provision of nature friendly boxes and retreats at the site through a community assistance project provided by Skanska Construction at no cost to the council.

RESOLVED:-

The council welcomes the provision of such nature friendly articles to the site.

1718/OS/40 To consider matters relating to the hedges at the site.

Members were made aware of conversations and an email exchange between Councillors and a resident whose property borders the site, and had heard from the resident whose land borders the site in public participation.

Members discussed the matter and agreed:-

RESOLVED:-

The Parish Council acknowledges the requirement and need for the hedge bordering a residence at the allotments to be maintained as a hedge. It will be allowed to grow a further few feet high from it's current height to provide improved screening to the neighbouring property and wind protection to the allotments. It will then be maintained and trimmed as required by the Parish Council.

1718/OS/041 Matters for Information

The matter of untended plots was raised and it was agreed that Councillor Sue List and the Clerk will conduct an inspection of the site in late April / early May 2018, and contact any plot holders as appropriate.

Concern was raised about the state of some of the tree branches on the land neighbouring the site, between the two allotment fields, caused by the recent bad weather.

OPEN SPACES

1718/OS/042 To discuss the Floral planting for the Spring

Under the arrangements from a long standing Section 106 fund agreement, the council had again be offered summer bedding plants free of charge for ordering and collection from North Somerset Council. It was reported that the plants have now been ordered, and Councillor Sue List will co-ordinate collection with

Councillor Bill Caruthers and the Assistant Clerk in the spring when the plants are ready for collection.

1718/OS/043 To consider planting work required at 'The Hand' area.

Members noted that sufficient plants from the minute item above had been ordered to enable planting at The Hand sculpture this summer. These would be enhanced by the addition of a few perennial plants to enhance the feature.

1718/OS/044 To review the 2017-18 Open Spaces budget vs spend.

The detail of the spending against budget to date for 'open spaces' was presented to the committee. No issues arose.

1718/OS/045 Bins & Signs

- The Clerk reported that the new contractor for emptying dog waste bins was now operating and after some teething issues it appeared to be going well. There were several bins that are damaged / without lids and the Clerk will be liaising with the contractor to have those rectified prior to any warmer weather.

1718/OS/046 Bus Shelters

The Clerk reported that the replacement seat in the bus shelter at the A38 traffic lights –was ordered and in hand.

1718/OS/047 Matters for Information

No matters raised.

There being no further Business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm

Next scheduled meeting – Monday 21st May 2018 (Provisional Date)

Signed.....

Date.....