

Churchill Parish Council Allotment Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 5th February 2015 at Churchill Community Club at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors Brenden Hill, Jackie Bush, Sue List and Clerk Aleana Baird.

Key user group representatives – Ruth Lamb, Bob Bruton and Simon Andrews.

Members of the Public – 4 members of the public.

14/15.12 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillors Graham Fortune, Trudy Silverton and Simon Hegarty.

14/15.13 To receive Councillors declarations of interest.

NONE

14/15.14 To confirm and sign the minutes from the meeting held 16th September 2014.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of 16th September 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed.

14/15.15 Public Participation.

Members of the public who were tenants of the allotments raised a number of issues as follows

- 2 spoke regarding the request for a poly tunnel which they had concerns about in respect of the aesthetic appearance of the fields, water usage and size.
- The rubbish bin was constantly overflowing, it was to be removed by Councillor Sue List and the Clerk was to ask tenants to take rubbish home with them.
- The gate lock was often being left with the code unscrambled – the Clerk was to send a reminder that it should be scrambled when leaving/locking the gate.
- The persistent problem of tenants dumping waste along the rear path between the two fields continues. The Clerk was to again ask that this stops, it is contrary to 12(e) of the tenancy.
- A few plots had items that were not allowed under the tenancy – the Clerk was to remind everyone to re-read the agreement and this would be a subject at the next site inspection.
- The issue of tenants planting in a way that was considerate to their immediate neighbours was highlighted. The Clerk was to ask everyone to think about where they plant and take into account the size of fully grown produce so that they are not impacting on their neighbours by overgrowing their boundary infringing on others plants and are still able to harvest crops without having to go onto their neighbouring plot.

14/15.16 Budget statement for 2014-15 and an update on the current rental of plots.

A budget statement had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and was available on the website. The Clerk reminded that it had been agreed that £2,000 maybe an earmarked reserve into 2015-16 to be used for matched funding for water

provision on the site.

14/15.17 To discuss the responses to the water survey for provision of water to the fields, next steps to be carried out.

All tenants who responded (only 1 didn't) had wanted water to be supplied. Only one tenant did not.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk would obtain all necessary quotes required for seeking funding to supply water to the fields. The payment of water charges would be included in future plot rents. This would be addressed through a new tenancy issued in one year's time at the start of the allotment year 1st Feb 2016. Should water be installed prior to this an interim arrangement would be sought. The Clerk would notify tenants of this as a year's notice was required to alter rents. The one tenant who did not wish to have water supplied may continue under the present tenancy until such time as they relinquish the plot at which point the most recent agreement would then be issued thereafter.

14/15.08 To consider a request for a 3m x 6m poly tunnel.

This item was referred to Full Council 9th February 2015 for decision.

14/15.19 The following suggestions have put forward for the consideration of the Committee.

- To consider purchasing a rotavator which could be rented out to tenants with funds generated used to fund i.e. community barbecues. It could be used to maintain vacated plots.
- To set up a discount scheme with local garden centres for tenants.
- The Committee to arrange three dates for communal Barbecues for all tenants (April July October) Committee members to ask local business to support these events by donating food, drink raffle prizes to raise money for communal tools / books for reference.
- The sale of surplus produce in the car park.

The Committee considered all the above suggestions were matters that could be organized by the tenants themselves, it was not considered to be matters for progression by the Committee apart from the sale of surplus produce which not allowed done from the site.

14/15.20 To make arrangements for a working party to carry out winter maintenance tasks and to set the date for the annual site inspection.

A working party were to meet on Saturday 21st February at 10.00 a.m. with work to include tree pruning, covering plots and mulching whips and a general look over the fields.

The Clerk would ask for helpers.

The date of the annual inspection was to be Tuesday 9th June 2015 at 7.00 pm

14/15.21 The management of vacant/untended plots.

The guidelines for this were to be resent to all tenants; the covering work was to be done by the working party.

14/15.22 To consider any amendments to the tenancy agreement that may arise as a result of the evening's agenda items.

Amendments as follows:

Payment of water charges included within the rent.

No surplus produce to be sold from the allotment site.
No rent refunds if a plot is relinquished during any 6/12 month rental period.

14/15.23 Matters for information including future agenda items and the date of next meeting.

- i) The allotment meeting was to be included diary in for 2015-16 (June, October & January).
- ii) The Village Show was to be held 12th September 2015 and the Harvest Supper was to held again in the evening.
- iii) The next Village Show meeting was to be on Tuesday 24th February 2015 at 7.30 p.m., the Clerk was to check availability of the Community Club.

Meeting closed 8.38 pm.