



CHURCHILL PARISH COUNCIL

OPEN SPACES AND ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21 January 2019 at 7.30 pm

Present:-

Councillors – Sue List (Chair of Committee), Jackie Bush (Chair), Ruth Bruton and Trudy Silverton.

Co-Opted Members: - Annabel Thomas. Allotment Holder (representing Field 1)

Also present: Ann Boote – Assistant Clerk of the Council. Tanya Cooper, James Williams (Allotment Committee) and 4 members of the public.

1718/OS/061 Apologies for absence

None

1718/OS/062 Declarations of Interest

None

1718/OS/063 To confirm and sign the notes of the Open Spaces & Allotments Committee meeting held on 15th October 2018

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2018 had been previously circulated and displayed on the Councils website.

RESOLVED

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th October 2018 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

1718/OS/064 Public Participation

A member of the public spoke about the recent issue of non-collection of dog waste. A request was made to relocate the current dog waste bin between Broadoak and Ladymead Lane. A request was also made to increase the number of general waste bins.

The meeting was informed that the issue of non collection of dog waste at the end of 2018 and beginning of 2019 had been addressed. The contractor failed to collect dog waste for several weeks. Churchill Parish was not the only local parish affected by this problem. The Parish council has taken action and employed a new contractor, who will be collecting the waste on a weekly basis. The new company employs a larger number of employees, this we believe will stop the problem reoccurring.

Councillor Jackie Bush explained that the parish currently have a large number of general & dog waste bins & due to costs involved in collecting waste, had no plans to increase current numbers. The dog bins in particular were located where the need was greatest, i.e. areas which are frequented by dog walkers.

A complaint was made by a member of the public regarding the sounds of a cockerel coming from the allotment area at Field 1, plot 23.

The meeting was updated on the status of available allotment plots and current waiting list.

A complaint was made on the current state of the compost area, which was not being used correctly by allotment holders.

A request was made to increase the number of times the allotment area grass was cut, from the current 3 times per year, particularly during the dandelion season. The meeting was reminded that some expensive grass cutting tools had been provided to the Allotment Holders and were readily available should they be needed.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that Councillor Jackie Bush & Sue List would investigate whether a cockerel was located on the allotments.

Assistant Clerk (Ann Boote) to speak to the Clerk (Martin Dolton) to discuss the possibility of increasing the grass cutting at the Allotments during the growing season.

ALLOTMENTS

1718/OS/065 Update on Allotment Committee. Achievements so far & plans for the future.

At the invitation of the Chair of the meeting, members of the Allotment Committee (Tanya Cooper and James Williams) spoke about the difficulties in trying to encourage other Allotment Holders to join the Committee. A facebook page had been set up under the title of 'Pudding Pie Growers'. This was created as a way to provide help and advice to other Allotment holders. A way of gathering ideas to improve the Allotment areas for everyone.

There followed a discussion with ideas on how to create a proactive community. In particular, a way to inform everyone on events being held at the Allotment. It was suggested that advertising posters be created & delivered to all allotment outbuildings.

Ideas included selling plants, seedlings and excess produce on a 'market day'. These events could be advertised on an outdoor chalk board type notice board at the allotment entrances.

A suggestion was made to make better use of the communal areas. An idea was to create a roof over the gazebo at the community area to allow it to be used more often. The community shed which is currently used as a gardening book lending library; could be improved by extending its use to lending gardening tools

RESOLVED

Tanya Cooper (Committee Member) agreed to provide Councillor Sue List with a facebook advertising poster, which would be copied and distributed to each shed/ outbuilding to inform Allotment Holders about the Committee..

1718/OS/066 Update on Budget vs spend to date 2018/19 Financial Year

The Financial Report shows all expenditure codes are on target and within budget.

OPEN SPACES

1718/OS/67 Proposed Advertising local events Sign using LED at Dinghurst Road/Bristol road traffic lights.

A discussion took place regarding the possibility of using LED signage to advertise local events such as the Village Show, musical events and sporting events.

Alternative Banner type displays were also discussed. It was felt that purchasing a new banner for each event may be cost prohibitive. Alternative signage was also discussed in particular hand written outdoor signs or those using vinyl lettering.

RESOLVED

The meeting agreed that an LED type of display was not in keeping with the village surroundings and could cause a danger in distracting drivers at this location. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk (Ann Boote) look into alternative options and costings.

1718/OS/068 Planting new bed at the 'Hand'

There was a positive response to the new fencing at the 'Hand'. A suggestion was made that the fencing be prepared and preserved. The meeting discussed the type of plants to be used at the 'hand'.

A suggestion of Trailing and climbing plants be used such as Jasmine, honeysuckle and clematis. A mixture of bushes & hardy plants, plus winter bulbs.

The meeting was also informed that the order had been placed with NSC to provide a number of free summer flowering plants.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that Councillor Sue List visit Rocky Mountain garden centre and purchase plants on behalf of the Parish Council. It was noted that the Parish Orderly had volunteered to help with planting when available.

It was agreed to ask the Parish Orderly to prepare the fencing at the 'Hand' and paint with wood preservative to prolong its life.

1718/OS/069 Dog Waste Bins. Request by local resident to remove bin from the entrance of Endomead, between Broadoak and Ladymead Lane.

This issue was discussed at length under 'Public Participation'.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that the Assistant Clerk (Ann Boote) issue a reply to the local resident in response to their comments.

1718/OS/070 Grass cutting Status

The meeting was informed that the new grass cutting contract had been awarded to West Country Groundcare. There would be a slight increase in cost from previous years. The Parish Clerk and Assistant Clerk would be meeting the contractor in February to discuss the contract in more detail.

1718/OS/071 Update on Budget vs Spend to date 2018/19 Financial Year

The Financial Report shows all expenditure codes are on target and within budget. A note was added relating to code 4215(Open Spaces Maintenance & Improvements) to explain that £4510 was transferred from Ear Marked Reserves to this budget. Therefore, making the spend to date £2282 and within budget.

1718/OS/072 Matters for information

None

There being no further Business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Next scheduled meeting – Provisional date 20th May 2019