

## Churchill Parish Council

### Open Spaces & Allotments Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
at Churchill Community Club at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillors Alan Brown, Bill Carruthers, Brenden Hill, Sue List, Trudy Silverton, 2 allotment plot holders and Clerk Aleana Baird.

#### **0.37. To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Parish Tree Warden Kate Johns, Cllr Valerie Langley and Claire France (Field 1 Key User Representative).

#### **0.38. To receive Councillors declarations of interest.**

NONE.

#### **0.39. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Open Spaces & Allotments Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015.**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes from the Open Spaces & Allotments Committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

#### **0.40 Public Participation**

Both allotment holders stated how pleased they were to see the water installation was making good progress and the Clerk advised the mains connection was due to be done at the beginning of April. One allotment holder asked about a splash back for the trough located to the rear of her shed. A request was made for vehicles to be allowed on the grass pathways to deliver manure etc. This request was denied as it was in the tenancy that this was not allowed in order to keep the pathways in good condition and clear of obstruction at all times. It was asked if the pathways were to be grass seeded after the water installation which they were once the weather became warmer. There was a query re the height of a fence around a plot; this was to be checked at the next site inspection.

#### **0.41. To receive a Tree Wardens update.**

Kate Johns had sent a link to the Parish Tree Walk the tree wardens had published in the North Somerset 'Life' magazine.

**\*\*\* The next item was suspended and reconvened several times to allow the Committee to speak to members of the public.**

**0.42 To discuss the progress of communal compost/manure areas for each field.** The compost area in field 1 is partially completed and the field 2 one is completed but the existing manure heap needs moving into the newly created bays. The Clerk also mentioned that field 1 was full again but there were 4 vacant half plots and 3 full plots vacant in field 2. Councillor Sue List had created an article for the next Tower and noticeboards to try and promote the allotments.

- **To discuss any winter work required especially to Field 2.** A small amount of trimming was needed in field 2 which maybe work for a working party or Councillor Brenden Hill may undertake to do it. The issue of working parties and the lack of support for them by the majority of plot holders. This was leaving the same few people doing the work and they were now

demoralized by the unfairness of being the same ones helping all the time. The Clerk was to express how this small group of dedicated plot holders who have given up their time for the benefit of everyone needed much more help from everyone in both fields. This was to go out with the minutes.

**To discuss progress with the hedges within the fields (not the road fronting hedge).** The Clerk explained the obligations the Committee were under to address the poor condition and growth of the hedge on the left hand side of the field in return for the water being brought on to the fields across the adjacent properties land. This was to provide privacy for the residents. **The Clerk had met with one contractor who did not want to take the work as it was too big a job for one person.** She had met with Somerset Recycling Green Team who would provide a quote but they required measurements for that side of the field. The Clerk was to action.

**0.43 To review the 2015-16 budget and give an update on allotment finance and banking.**

The Clerk advised that the arrangements for managing the allotment account and budget was to be discussed at a meeting of the Finance & Personnel Committee 15th February. The refund of vat on the allotment account invoices was to be one suggestion as the two water invoices had amounted to £822.49 vat.

**\*\*\*\*\* The next item was suspended and reconvened several times to allow the Committee to speak to members of the public.**

**0.44 To consider the notification of tenants regarding the payment of water for the allotment fields and additional amendments to the tenancy that includes water bills, using baths for water collection and the removal of restriction of walk-in poly tunnels.**

The amendments to the tenancy of the removal of the restriction of walk-in poly tunnels and prohibiting baths had been agreed at previous meetings during the past year. The payment of water bills was discussed and the procedure was agreed as follows:

**RESOLVED:** that a charge of £10 per full plot and £5 per half plot per annum was made to paid in advance with the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016 rent payments. The charge was non-refundable. Further to the accurate water meter read bills in the next year the amount was to be adjusted for the Feb 1st 2017 water payment.

The clerk was to write to all plot holders asap, enclosing two copies of the tenancy amendments, one for retention by the tenant and the other signed and returned to the Clerk to be attached to the existing tenancy agreements.

**0.45 Matters for information.**

NONE.

**Open Spaces.**

**0.46 To consider quotes for the options for the repair of the burial ground gates.**

**RESOLVED:** to accept the quote by Classic Ironworks for £350 + vat for removal, straightening, a new latch and blast cleaning.

#### **0.47 Floral planting**

- To consider spring/summer planting and further consider the barrels for planting at Blackmoor and the planter at the Stag & Hounds.  
The Blackmoor barrels were to be actioned by the Clerk. The Stag and Hounds planter was to be planted with more permanent plants i.e. a shrub and hardy fuchsias. The Parish Orderly was to be asked to wood treat the planter.

#### **0.48 To consider the Hand area work including a possible specimen tree for the Hand area.**

A meeting was to be arranged in the spring with the adjacent resident to discuss finishing the area. The removal of the bag of material that has been left on the area was to be requested.

#### **0.49 To discuss future Christmas Lights display in the Parish.**

Councillor Bill Carruthers was to speak to Budgens about sponsoring Christmas lights.

#### **0.50 To review the 2015-16 budget and discuss projects for Open Spaces to work on during 2016-17.**

The budget had been circulated and members were satisfied with the statement. The projects mentioned for next year were a finger post at the traffic lights, floral display at the traffic lights. Further ideas may come forward in the Spring walkabout.

#### **0.51 State of bins and signs**

- To discuss progress with parish fingerposts.  
Councillor Brenden Hill updated the Committee regarding the work to the finger posts. The Clerk was to chase Cerdic Foundries for progress on the Hilliers Lane finger post repair.

#### **0.52 Bus Shelters**

To consider any maintenance required.

There was no maintenance required other than the cast sign on the Budgens shelter which the Parish Orderly had almost finished painting. Councillor Brenden Hill was to re-erect when it was completed.

#### **0.53 Matters for information.**

The clock in the Clocktower had ceased to strike to quarter of an hour a while ago but the 'on the hour' strike had also stopped working. The Clerk was to action repairs.

The meeting closed at 9.04 pm