



DRAFT/UNAPPROVED
FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL
Parish Office 01983 752000

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE OF FRESHWATER PARISH COUNCIL, HELD ON TUESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 2015 AT 7.00PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF THE MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Councillors: A Bamford (Chair), C Bray, B Hobbs, C Fleury, M Wheeler, G Kennett MBE, S Allen.

Members of the public 10

Assistant Clerk: Emma Carter

1. APOLOGIES:

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the last meetings held 13th October 2015 having been circulated and be approved and signed (BH/CB).

3. INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK ON ALLOTMENT MATTERS ON THE AGENDA AT THE AT THE CHAIRMANS DISCRETION.

The Chairman asked the public if they wished to speak now or when an issue came up that they wished to comment on. The decision was made to wait and speak when the issue came up.

4. ASSISTANT CLERK TO CONFIRM CURRENT WAITING LIST NUMBERS:

Assistant Clerk confirmed that the waiting list currently has 9 people on it but that there are a potential 6 plots available.

5. INCOME:

Cllr Bamford confirmed that the budget for 2016/2017 is £250 plus the income from the rent dues. Assistant Clerk confirmed that as of yet, not all rents had been collected. This is due to plots having been given up but that the figure, is normally just over the £1,000 mark. Cllr Hobbs confirmed that at the Finance Meeting, the monies left in the Allotment budget from that year, would be carried forward into the following years budget. This will hopefully enable savings to be accumulated and then used for the benefit of the Allotments.

6. GREEN TOILET:

After discussion about how the toilet is delivered and how it works. The Plot Holders agreed, that if a grant could be found to fund the buying of a toilet and also to carry out the ground work required, (a base needs to be installed for the Green Toilet Shed to sit on,) it would be great to have one installed. The issue of security was raised and it was confirmed that it would be locked buy a padlock. Also the question was raised of who was going to look after it and maintain it. It was agreed that the **Assistant Clerk and Chairman** now look into this further to see if grants can be obtained. Once this is done, a meeting will be called where the next stage decisions will be made. I.e. Where the Green Toilet is to be sited and the maintenance.

7. COMMUNITY SHED: TO DISCUSS COMMENTS FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ALLOTMENT NEWSLETTER SURVEY:

It was confirmed at the Allotment meeting that a Lawn Mower and Rotavator both petrol, have been donated to the Allotment holders, from a past allotment holder, a Mr John Jefferies who has now sadly passed away. Due to this, it was decided that either a shed measuring 12x8 foot or at least 10x8 feet would be useful. These items could then be stored in the shed, for every plot holder to use. It was agreed that due to both of them being petrol, they couldn't be stored with the fuel in but that the plot holders, would have to bring their own fuel in and then take it home with them every time. This would be due to health and safety issues. It was also confirmed by the plot holders present that a double door shed would be better suited. With regards to where to place the shed, discussions took place and it was decided somewhere flat and probably next too or near to the Green Toilet.

8. NOTICEBOARD:

It was agreed that a noticeboard would be very useful, as the Parish could pass on information to the plot holders as not everyone has e-mail. It was also mentioned, that it would be useful for the plot holders to use also, as they could then pass on information to each other.

9. PATHS:

The chairman raised the issue of the un-even main path. No conclusion was really made as it was thought that it would be difficult to do anything to improve it. The water pressure was also mentioned at the same time as the chairman pointed out that if the main path was improved, the parish could and would also look at moving the water pipe at the same time and run it along the edge of the path so that it was no longer across some of the allotment plots. It was mentioned that the amount of water coming through, could possibly be improved if the water pipe coming into the allotments was doubled in size. This would increase the volume coming in but not the actual water pressure. This could possibly be the solution. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that when she first started, a survey was sent to all the plot holders, asking them if they wished to contribute to the cost of looking into getting a new water supply installed, which they didn't. When the parish looked into it, a 'one off' fee would have to be paid for a survey to be carried out, to see if it was then feasible to carry out work to increase the water supply. It was confirmed by Southern Water, that it wasn't viable to carry out the work to increase the pressure as it is up hill and the actual pressure coming in is how it should be. It was looked into bring it in from Collards Close in the past too but it wasn't cost effective.

10. ALLOTMEMNTS: TO DISCUSS WAY FORWARD AND PROGRESSION.

- A) Hardstanding – The area just inside the main gate was confirmed as being boggy and under water. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that she had received a quote for £2472 to concrete this area. Both Cllrs and plot holders agreed that this wasn't the way to move forward, as it wouldn't help with the issue of the standing water. It was agreed that the **Assistant Clerk**, would once again go out for quotes for Scalping's as she had previously.
- B) Paddock – A lengthy discussion took place and various suggestions and ideas were raised. In the end it was decided that the paddock area should be left as it is. The **Assistant Clerk** is to look into the sale of this piece of land.
- C) Site appearance – This was quite an important topic with the holders present. Concern was raised that not everyone is tending to their plots as much as they could be. The plot holders also asked that

we go back to sending the letters to the holders not cultivating their plots and reminding them of this and if needed to remove the plot from them.

Assistant Clerk also asked if the plot holders could let her or the chairman know, if rubbish is being left on site. This is due to the fact that a plot was offered to someone and they came back and said a bath had been dumped on the plot.

- D) Allotment Competition ideas - It was agreed that the competition should be for the Most Productive Allotment Plot. Also it was raised and agreed that the plots should be judged more than once a year and that the judging should be spread out throughout the growing season before the final decision is made.

Suggestions of The County Press Gardener, Ventnor Botanic Gardens and Bob from Flowerdue be approached and asked if they would like to be judges.

11. ANY OTHER MATTERS:

The Re-hanging of the gate was raised. Assistant Clerk confirmed that she has received a quote for £258. Councillors agreed that this was too expensive as did the Allotment Holders. Cllr Bray confirmed who the last contractor was and it was agreed that we go back to them as the gate failed only a few weeks after it was installed.

Assistant clerk will also obtain other quotes for comparison.

The Allotment holders confirmed that they thought it might be a good idea to change the year end date to September. This would then allow new plot holders to be able to work on their plots more effectively when they first get them. The parish councillors thought that this was a good idea and it was suggested that maybe the length of next year's rental period reflect this to enable the change to be made change. It was thought that increasing the rental period as opposed to shortening it would be the way to move forward to bring in this change.

12. TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR 19th JULY 2016:

This date was agreed by all Parish Councillors.

The meeting closed at 8.00pm