

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 23rd July 2019 **Time:** 10.00am

Place: Committee room, Burghfield Village Hall

Present: Mrs Val Brown Mr Graham Harris
Mr Chris Price Mr Steve Trahearn
Mr Ian Kitson Mr Roger Powell

Apologies: Mrs Leanne Price

Present: Mrs C Morris (Clerk) Mrs C Stroud (Assistant Clerk)

1. To elect a chairman for the ensuing municipal year

Resolved unanimously that Mr C Price be elected as Chairman of the Allotments Sub-committee. Proposed by Mr G Harris and seconded by Mr S Trahearn and **resolved** unanimously.

2. To receive written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interest dispensations from members

There were no items upon the agenda that necessitated a member to present a written request for dispensation for a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee having been held on 21st May 2019 having been circulated, were confirmed a correct record and signed by the presiding Chairman.

4. To receive an update in relation to the potential provision of additional water troughs

Members received a verbal update from Mr Kitson in relation to the provision of water at the common allotments site. A draft proposal for providing standpipes at the common allotments. Members discussed the provision of water at the Hatch allotments to determine whether the provision of standpipes was required. It was determined that due to the size of the site, the current provision of troughs was deemed sufficient. The water supply also ensures a quicker filling of the troughs. Mr C Price is to liaise with plot holders to determine whether any additional troughs are required.

Members present requested permission is sought from the parish council to liaise with other local councils who have previously undertaken an irrigation replenishment programme. Permission to obtain three quotations for the works is also sought for presentation to the community committee for their consideration at a later date. A variety of options are to be explored for presentation to ensure best value at all times.

5. To receive an update on plot availability at the Common and Hatch Allotments

Following inspections at both sites, tenants identified as not complying fully with the rules have been contacted, with appropriate action being taken where necessary. All plots with outstanding rent have also been notified. Currently, there are 6 available plots at the common allotments, the Hatch allotments are at full capacity.

6. To give consideration to the concerns raised in relation to Bonfires at the Common allotments and their impact on the environment

Members gave consideration to the potential of restricting Bonfires at both allotment sites. The law on bonfires in England & Wales is simple; there isn't one. There is however a law against any subsequent nuisance that having one might cause. A bonfire must not be allowed to create a nuisance to other tenants or neighbours. Plot holders should adhere to the not burning anything like plastic, rubber, old engine oil and anything that might produce poisonous fumes. Members discussed a potential communal compost heap, determining that it had been trialled previously unsuccessfully. Members **resolved** unanimously the following proposal is presented to the Community committee for their consideration. Proposed by Mr R Powell, seconded by Mrs V Brown:

To acknowledge concerns regarding the environment, and the parish councils desire to ensure environmentally sustainable strategies, the council are to actively discourage bonfires and encourage the recycling and composting of green waste at both allotment sites. The allotment rules are to be amended to reflect the restriction of bonfires accordingly.

7. To give consideration to improved methods of communication between allotment holders

Members were advised that a Facebook page specifically for allotment holders had been established. Moderators have been determined to ensure the page is regulated accordingly.

A regular article is to continue in the newsletter to advise parishioners of the work of the plot holders.

8. To receive the request for additional noticeboards

A request was presented for additional noticeboards at either end of the common allotments. The request is to be presented to the Communications committee accordingly.

9. To review the article submitted in the previous parish newsletter and consider ideas for future editions

Members reviewed the article submitted in the June edition, which included a message from the chairman and a recommended seasonal recipe. The deadline for articles being Monday 26th August.

10. To determine the arrangements for the produce display at the MacMillan coffee morning

Members present discussed the format for the display of produce at the Macmillan Coffee morning scheduled for Friday 13th September between 10am and 1pm. A display table is to be established within the hall with a suggestion of a donation for produce taken. All proceeds are to be donated to Macmillan Cancer in conjunction with the coffee morning donations.

11. To consider any other matters regarding the administration of the allotments

Members are keen to continue the annual provision of a skip.

Members were alerted to a plot holder at the Hatch allotments having erected a large timber building. A letter is to be forwarded to the plot holder requesting its removal.

12. Matters for Future Discussion

Planting of wildflowers on difficult to let plots, consideration of environment issues in adherence with the proposed strategy form the parish council as a whole.

13. Items for Information Only

Meeting closed at 11.15am

Next Meeting: Wednesday 2nd October 2019