

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday 2nd October 2019 **Time:** 10.00am

Place: Committee room, Burghfield Village Hall

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

Apologies: None

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

1. 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.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee having been held on 21st 23rd July 2019 having been circulated, were confirmed a correct record and signed by the presiding Chairman.

3. 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 standpipes at the common allotments. A scope of works was presented for comment in support of obtaining quotations for the proposal. The clerk is to forward an email to other parish councils within West Berks to determine the procedure they adopted in the provision of the standpipes. Thames water and an agricultural groundworks company are to be contacted for further advice and guidance.

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

Currently, there are 6 available plots at the common allotments, with 4 new enquiries being followed up. The Hatch allotments are at full capacity.

5. To discuss the security at both allotment sites following recent reports

Members present discussed the security at both allotment sites, specifically in relation to the theft of vegetables and vandalism. A suggestion was presented for the installation of either small cameras or notices at the allotment sites to advise people they are being monitored. Concerns were expressed in relation to the obtaining and storing of images, specifically in relation to GDPR rulings. Discussions ensued between members regarding how to proceed with any evidence obtained. A proposal is to be presented to the Community committee for the purchase of suitable signage in the first instance.

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

Members reviewed the article submitted in the September edition, which included two seasonal recipes, an allotment poem and a Burghfield gardening club advert. The deadline for articles to be submitted for the December edition is 31st October.

7. To receive an update following the produce display at the Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thanks were expressed to all produce donations for the display at the Macmillan Coffee morning held on Friday 13th September at the village hall. The morning was a huge success and a total of £726 was raised. Special thanks to Mr Graham Harris for all his support on the day.

8. To give consideration to any environmental initiatives

The allotment rules have been amended to deter bonfires.

The reasoning behind a communal compost heap was discussed by members, reiterating that it had been previously tried and tested, deeming difficult to manage effectively.

Members discussed the potential of the outer borders of the allotment sites being sown with wildflowers. Due to the maintenance involved, it was deemed difficult to ensure seeds did not

cause a nuisance to other plot holders.

Further investigations are to be made as to whether beehives can be kept on allotment plots. The clerk is to advise accordingly from a legal perspective.

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

A query was presented in relation to the reimbursement of expenses incurred by members in the pursuit of providing standpipes at the common allotment site.

A site inspection is to be undertaken at the end of October to determine plots requiring additional work.

10. Matters for Future Discussion

Rent review

11. Items for Information Only

Meeting closed at 11.05am.

Next Meeting: To be advised