**Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The United Reformed Church Rusthall on 15th December 2015 at 8:00pm**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Benoy (Chairman), Cllr Edwards (V.Chairman), Cllr Moore, Mr Longhurst and Mr Dand.

**OFFICER PRESENT**: Mrs S Denne – Clerk

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Yes

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting** **-** None

**2.** **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Punyer

**3. Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Benoy, Mr Dand and Mr Longhurst have allotment plots.

**4**. Minutes of the Allotment Meeting held on the 16th June 2015 were agreed.

**5**. **Finance** – i. Rent for October 2016 – It was agreed not to increase the rent for the time being. The Clerk to investigate the cost of compost toilets and report back to the Committee before the March meeting.

ii. Skips for 2016 – one for Wickham Gardens and one for either Southwood Road or the Extension. *Clerk to arrange.*

iii. Update on invoices paid – All but two invoices paid, these were given ‘Notice to Quit’.

iv. To consider refundable deposit for key – This was agreed for all new tenants, £15 refundable. Any replacement keys also £15.

**6**. **Allotment Plots** – i. clearing of plot WG39A – It was agreed to ask any new tenants if they would clear away the mound of carpet for a year free of rent.

ii. Instructing Chris to clear and divide plot SR26 before the spring

iii. To consider allocating only half plots due to demand – It was agreed to remain with current policy.

**7**. **Arrange meetings for 2016** – Meetings to be held on the 15th March, 21st June, 20 September and 13th December. All meeting s to be held at The Rackliff Centre (Old fire station).

**8.** **Chairman’s Report** – Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that there would be a BBQ in the summer of 2016. He also thanked the Clerk for all her work during 2015.

**9.** **Open session for questions from the public –**

a) Mr Victor Webb gave an informative talk about the keeping of bees. He would like to keep bees on the allotment site. It was agreed that all surrounding plot holders should be asked first if they would be happy with bee hives next to them. If there was no negative feedback then the Allotment Committee may allow Mr Webb to keep the bees but on a trial basis.

b) Post needs to be repaired at the first gate of Southwood Road*. Cllr Benoy to speak to fencer about this and post at Wickham Gardens.*

*c)* Hedge at front of Southwood Road needs to be trimmed. *Clerk to speak to contractor*.

*d)* There was a complaint about grass cuttings being left on path. The contractor will be building a grass compost bin and a leaf compost bin. These are only to be used by the contractor.

e) There was a complaint about how some plots on the extension were being kept .The Clerk said that she had sent a letter to all plot holders, informing them that if their plots were not cultivated by 50% before June then their tenancy agreement would be cancelled. An inspection will be carried out on all plots in March and then in June.

Lastly Cllr Moore offered the use of her husband’s rotivator. The rotivator would be kept at The Rackliff Centre for any plot holder to borrow.

**The meeting closed at 2115 followed by drinks and nibbles.**