

Minutes of The Allotment Committee meeting

held on Monday 20th June 2022 at 7.30

Members Present: Cllr Doug Smith; Cllr E Ellicott, Cllr Barry Edwards; Cllr P Gripper; Suzanne French; Leon Banks.

Officer Present: Linda Neusten (Deputy Clerk)

Members of the public: 8

1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting.

No.

2. To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Funnell sent apologies which were accepted by the Committee.

3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests.

Cllrs Smith, Ellicott, Committee Members Miss French & Mr Banks declared they are all Allotment holders.

4. Declarations of Lobbying.

None

5. i. a. Minutes of meeting held on 21st March 2022: These were agreed and it was resolved that the Chairman sign them as a true and accurate record of the meeting

i.b. No outstanding issues, not listed as separate agenda items, from these minutes

i.c. No matters outstanding from previous minutes.

5ii Open session for questions from the public:

Questions raised: -

a. A request for help to maintain tidy plot barriers between SR34 & 33. Cllr Gripper offered to assist.

6. Election of Chairman: Cllr Doug Smith - nominated, seconded and voted unanimously. Cllr Smith has stated he intends stand down next year (2023).

7. Election of Vice Chairman: Cllr Liz Ellicott - nominated, seconded and voted unanimously.

8. Consider tree surgery quote for SW Rd Extension: Cllr Doug Smith proposed Committee accept the quote (noting VAT would be recoverable). Proposal was seconded and Committee voted unanimously to approve.

9. **Update on padlocks:** Padlocks at both Southwood Road and Wickham Gardens sites have been replaced and new codes set. All Allotment holders and maintenance companies all have the new codes.
10. **Extra costs re asbestos in skip:** Unfortunately the skips arranged for clearance of Storm damage in the spring were found to have had Asbestos put in them The Council was charged an extra £650 for the safe disposal of said asbestos. Asbestos must always be disposed of following strict environmental guidelines. <https://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/guidance/em9.pdf>
11. **Update on Inspections:** May and June Inspections have now been completed. Termination letters giving 2 weeks' notice proposed WG35/35A and WG18. by Cllr Doug Smith. Committee voted unanimously.
12. **Date of Judging:** Friday 1st July 2022
13. **Value of Prizes:** Best Plot 1st Prize £25 ; Best Plot 2nd Prize £15; Best New Comer £15 & Scarecrow £10. Prizes to take the form of Venture Vouchers and be purchased by The Clerk. Cllr Liz Ellicott proposed; was seconded and Committee voted unanimously to approve.
14. **Prize giving and BBQ arrangements:** Saturday 9th July. Starting at 1pm. Community Space at Southwood Road Allotments. BBQ of burgers and sausages to be provided by Rusthall Parish Council and all attendees to bring 'a plate' for sharing along with drinks, chairs and blankets. Clerk to contact all allotment holders with these details.
15. **Future rents and deposits: Rents:** Cllr Doug Smith proposed a small increase to Rentals – purely to round off the figures. Starting in October 2022. A full plot = £60; a half plot = £30 and a quarter plot £15. **Deposits:** Committee Member Leon Banks proposed an increase to £50 from October 2022. Seconded and Committee voted unanimously to approve.
16. **Items for consideration**
 - i. **No Mow May** - Not appropriate on allotments as plots in close proximity and blowing seeds from grasses would 'contaminate neighbouring plots.
17. **Next meeting 19th September 2022 7.30pm at Rackliff Centre**

Meeting closed 20.48

Chairman

Date.....