

Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The Rackliff Centre Rusthall on 19th September 2016 at 8:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Benoy, Cllr Punyer 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 Edwards, Cllr Moore
3. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Benoy, Cllr Punyer and Mr Dand have allotment plots.
4. Minutes of the Allotment Meeting held on the 20th June 2016 were agreed.
5. **Rotovator** –The rotovator, kindly donated by Cllr Moore and serviced by Mr Dand, is now available for hire. It is a small machine, which will work on ground that has been dug but not on ground that has been left undug for some time. If anyone would like to hire the rotovator, they need to contact the Clerk. The cost will be £10 for the day (10am to 4pm) or £15 for two days. Fuel to be supplied by the hirer. The rotovator must be returned in a clean condition.
6. **Fruit tree pruning** – Wickham Gardens communal plot has a few fruit trees on it which have been neglected. They require pruning as they are taking light away from adjacent plots. Clerk to enquire if any plot holder is knowledgeable on pruning fruit trees.
7. **To consider adding an addendum to Tenancy Agreement** – Clerk requested that a change could be made to the tenancy agreement, not to allow carpet to be used as ground covering. She explained that once the carpet has been left for some time, it becomes part of the ground and is impossible to remove. It can also leach chemicals into the ground. It was agreed that the amendment could be added.
5. **Clerk's Report** – The Clerk to contact Pepenbury having heard the possibility of them not renewing their tenancy agreement at the end of September. Clerk informed meeting that she had put in a request to the Woodland Trust for hedging to go along Southwood Road allotments and Wickham Gardens allotments. To be informed by the end of September if successful.
8. **Chairman's Report** - Cllr Benoy informed the meeting that the Parish Council were considering installing CCTV on the Southwood Road allotment site. A member of the public suggested that if the Primrose project closed then their access gate could be closed off, which was believed to be the point of access for the last theft. The summer BBQ was not a success, only two people attended along with Cllrs. If a BBQ is arranged for 2017 it will be in August and the Clerk would send out RSVP by email. Gates had been mended at Southwood Road site but were still causing a problem. Cllr Benoy informed the members that he may be able to purchase some second hand metal gates, he was waiting for a price.
9. **Open session for questions from the public:** A member of the public asked if rental prices were going to be increased. He was informed that at the moment the rent will be staying the same. Plot holders have to be given six months' notice of any increase, which would therefore be in April. A question was asked about the state of a plot at the Southwood Road site. Clerk informed them that the plot holder's tenancy had been terminated and another plot holder had taken it on. An enquiry with regards the times of bonfires had been made. The members felt that the times that bonfires were allowed were fair. Mr Dand reported that dog fouling was still a problem on the Southwood Road site. *Clerk to put on the agenda for the next meeting in December.*

The meeting closed at 21.00