

**Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting
held on Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30pm**

Members Present: Cllr E Ellicott (Acting Chair), Cllr B Edwards; Cllr P Gripper; Cllr D Funnell; Suzanne French.

Officer Present: Linda Neusten (Deputy Clerk)

Members of the public: 12

No decisions were taken by the Parish Council on any item not on the Agenda

- 1. Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting: -**
No one.
- 2. To receive and approve apologies for absence: -**
Cllr D Smith. Accepted. Cllr Ellicott, expressed regret at absence of Chair Cllr D Smith due to illness. Cllr Ellicott wanted it to be recorded that the initiatives to be discussed at the meeting were in fact originated by Cllr Smith.
- 3. Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests. :-** Cllr Ellicott and Suzanne French both have allotments and Cllr Gripper has family connections with an allotment tenant.
- 4. Declarations of Lobbying.**
No.
- 5. Open session for questions from the public: -** No questions or topics were raised.
- 6. Presentation of Awards to Prize Winners who were not at the summer BBQ: -** Certificates were awarded to;
 - i.** Southwood Road Extension - Alan Farmer – 1st prize; John Tapp, 2nd Prize; John Tapp also received a certificate for (joint) Best Scarecrow.
 - ii.** Southwood Road Allotments - 2nd Prize Alison Greenfield (presented to Howard Greenfield in her absence)
- 7. Results of the Summer Inspections: -** Cllr Ellicott said the latest inspections have now been carried out and found the overall standard was impressive. Letters will be sent out, where applicable by 5th October and invoices for the coming years' rent will be sent out the week beginning the 17th October 2022.
- 8. Waiting List and vacant plots: -** There are currently 7 names on the waiting list and 10 vacant plots.
- 9. i. Approve Draft Minutes from last meeting: -** The draft Minutes of the Allotments Committee Meeting held on the 20th June 2022 were approved by all and signed by the Acting Chairman Cllr Ellicott
ii. Any matter arising? - Request for help with a plot barrier between SR 33 and SR 34 – Cllr Gripper has now cleared boundary.

The plot barrier is now in place and the tree surgery required at Southwood Road has been carried out.

- 10. Barbed wire security at Southwood Road:-** The barbed wire has been fitted and intruders are no longer climbing into the allotments.
- 11. Approve the hiring of a skip for the allotments:** RESOLVED unanimously to spend up to £740 for two large skips (£370 each), one for Wickham Gardens and one for Southwood Road.
- 12. Padlock issues:** Following repeated issues, a proposal was put forward to revert to padlocks with keys at Southwood Road and Wickham Gardens Allotments. This was seconded and approved unanimously. Suitable ones will now be bought.
- 13. Consider the purchase of a Community Shed for Southwood Road: -** A quote received from Topwood Timber and Fencing £895 inc. vat . The price is for the installation of a shed and the creation of a slab for it to stand on, and it was unanimously RESOLVED to accept it.
- 14. Consider installing 8 extra water troughs at all 3 allotment sites:** It was RESOLVED in principle to site eight new tanks at the allotments. The quote received was for £15,000 but it was rejected in favour of finding a more economical solution.
- 15. Items for consideration: -**
 - i. Cllr Ellicott said it was RESOLVED at last Full Council Meeting to transfer £10,000 to the Allotment Committee budget.
 - ii. The Committee formally thanked Suzanne French and her sons for moving a large quantity of compost at Southwood Road.
 - iii. Brambles encroaching Richard Lawrence’s allotment Plot 27 - Assistance from the committee will be discussed at next meeting.
- 16. The next meeting will include a ‘Christmas Do’ and it will be held on 12th December 2022 at 7.30pm at the Rackliff Centre**

Meeting ended 20.15

Chairman’s signature.....

Date