

NORTH HINKSEY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 15th AUGUST 2018, AT 8.00PM, IN THE NEW SEACOURT HALL, BOTLEY.

Present: Councillor Ms. A. MacKeith (Chairman) and Councillors J. Bolder, A. Hardiman, D. Kay, L. Kunzemann, Co-opted members J. Stevens and C. Sugden.

Others Present: A. J. Stone (Parish Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R. Mayne.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ALLOTMENT ISSUES

a). Change/Revision of Allotment Rules to cover:

i). Offensive/Abusive Correspondence and Comments.

The Chairman, Councillor Ms. A. MacKeith and the Parish Clerk reminded the meeting of the unacceptable correspondence that had been received from an allotment holder. Members discussed this at length and all AGREED that such correspondence should not be tolerated in the future.

Councillor A. Hardiman proposed and C. Sugden seconded the following motion.

‘For clarification purposes the committee AGREES that the following additional rule should be added to the current allotment rules and take immediate effect, following notification to allotment holders.

Tenants must engage with the Allotments Committee, councillors and officers of the council and each other in a respectful manner, failing which the committee reserves the right to terminate tenancies.

On consideration it was felt that the proposed wording would fit better within the existing Rule 15 which would read,

The allotment plot holder must not be a nuisance or annoyance to tenants of any other plots. Any complaints must be made in writing to the chairman or vice chairman of the Allotments Committee. Tenants must engage with the Allotments Committee, councillors and officers of the council and each other in a respectful manner, failing which the committee reserves the right to terminate tenancies.

Members UNANIMOUSLY AGREED to SUPPORT the motion.

Action: Plot holders to be notified of the additional rule.

ii). Damage to Plot Holders Allotments.

The committee were sorry to hear of the damage reported by a plot holder to his plot and equipment and does not condone such actions. The committee were unable to take any further action as there was no evidence of who may have undertaken the damage.

Members AGREED that a note should be put in the next edition of the Allotments newsletter asking for any information in relation to the current or future damage to plots and equipment, so the committee could then take the appropriate action.

Action: Put a note in the next newsletter.

iii). Consideration of Existing Rules in relation to the Non-Cultivation of Plots.

It was AGREED that as the summer had been so dry, restricting plot holders from cultivating areas of their plots, then no action should be taken following the latest inspection. **Members**

AGREED that a further inspection should be held in October 2018, when further inspection concerns should be notified to non-compliant plot holders.

Action: Hold a further inspection in October 2018.

b). Water Pump in Allotments between North Hinksey Lane and the Southern By Pass

Members considered the report from Sipumps Ltd regarding repairs to the water pump and weighed up possible costs against the lack of available water on site.

C. Sugden proposed and Councillor J. Bolder seconded the motion that the ‘Allotments Committee AGREES, subject to the receipt of an acceptable quotation for the work, to ask Sipumps to undertake the work involved in repairing the pump handle and split pipe work’.

Action: C. Sugden to request a quotation showing the work to be done and the cost.

4. NORTH HINKSEY NATURE RESERVE AND COMMUNITY ORCHARD

a). ROSPA Safety Report – July 2018

Members considered the circulated ROSPA report, which had identified that:

- i). Some woodwork on the bridge leading to the Minns Business Park was showing signs of rotting, and needed to be repaired.
- ii). Some woodwork on the barriers to the pond were showing signs of rotting and needed to be repaired.

It was UNANIMOUSLY AGREED that this work should be undertaken as a matter of urgency under Health and Safety requirements.

Action: The Parish Clerk to contact G. Sillman for a quote concerning the replacement of the rotting timberwork, and provided the quote is reasonable for the Parish Clerk to agree that the work should be undertaken as a matter of urgency.

b). Scything the Long Grass in the Orchard and Meadow

The Chairman, Councillor Ms. A. MacKeith reported that she had learnt that Clive Marfleet was handy with the scythe, and had booked him to cut the long grass in the orchard and the meadow. He had finished the orchard and I had billed the council for doing so. She now wanted him to get on and scythe the wildflower meadow, which he was happy to do it, but wanted to check that this would be in order.

Members and the Parish Clerk reminded Councillor Ms. MacKeith that as both areas were open to the public, then Clive Marfleet should not be asked to do this unless he had the required level of public liability insurance.

Action: The Chairman, Councillor Ms. A. MacKeith to determine whether Clive Marfleet had The required level of public liability insurance and only employ him to do the work provided that was the case.

5. ANY OTHER INFORMATION

The Chairman, Councillor Ms A. MacKeith reported that the tenant of plot 75, wished to construct a small shed, measuring 6 foot by 3 foot.

6. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

27th September 2018

The meeting closed at 8.50pm