

BURGHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting

Date: Tuesday 21st May **Time:** 10.00am

Place: Committee room, Burghfield Village Hall

Present: Mrs Val Brown Mr Graham Harris
Mr Chris Price Mr Steve Trahearn
Mr Ian Kitson Mrs Leanne Price

Apologies:

Absent: Mr Roger Powell

Present: Mrs C Morris (Clerk) Mrs C Stroud (Assistant Clerk)

1. To receive written requests for Disclosable Pecuniary Interest dispensations from members

There were no items upon the agenda that necessitated a member to present a written request for dispensation for a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee having been held on 5th March 2019 having been circulated, were confirmed a correct record and signed by the presiding Chairman.

3. To receive an update in relation to the potential provision of additional water troughs

Members received a verbal update from Mr Kitson, further to meeting with a water provider to determine the potential of providing additional water troughs at the Common Allotments. Much discussion ensued as to the options available for improved water provision. A **recommendation** is to be prepared for presentation to the Community committee as to the potential number of additional troughs being required, and accompanying estimate of potential costs involved. Members did discuss the viability of providing the additional troughs, given the potential costs where it was discussed as to whether water butts could be provided to plot holders who expressed an interest. A proposal is to be prepared accordingly.

4. To receive an update on plot availability at the Common and Hatch Allotments following the rent collection in April

Rent collection has been completed with a few plots remaining outstanding. There are currently 11 plots available at the Common Allotments and 3 at the Hatch Allotments site. A waitlist has been compiled with interested parties being contacted upon a plot becoming available. A note is to be included in the next newsletter advising of current plot availability.

5. To receive an update following the spring clean at the Common Allotments

A spring clean weekend was held at the Common allotment site during the weekend of Friday 5th April - Monday 8th April. Due to its success an additional skip was provided to cater for the volume of rubbish cleared. Thanks were expressed to all members who assisted throughout the weekend to clear the rubbish and the general tidying of the site. A **recommendation** is to be presented to the Community committee for the Spring Clean to become an annual event.

6. To discuss concerns raised in relation to Bonfires at the Common allotments

Members present discussed the rulings regarding bonfires on both allotment sites, acknowledging the proximity of houses and the inconvenience caused. Plot holders are to be reminded of the potential nuisance bonfires can cause, with a note to be included within the next parish newsletter.

7. To consider any other matters regarding the administration of the allotments

Members discussed the recent damage caused to plots by a group of youths at the weekend. Reports were forwarded to the local police of the damage with a suggestion that patrols are undertaken when in the local area.

Members discussed the issue of large trees on plots, giving considerable shade and root damage to produce. It was determined that should a plot holder wish to move they would be offered alternatives. It was determined that the trees were a main feature of the allotments and they would therefore not be removed.

Discussions were held in relation to the size of the trees on individuals' plots. It was reiterated that the 2-metre rule applied. The large trees are to be monitored accordingly by the parish council.

Consideration was given to the use of tyres on plots, specifically when left after a tenancy agreement has been terminated. The situation is to be monitored accordingly.

8. To determine the arrangements for the produce display at the MacMillan coffee morning

Members present discussed the format for the display of produce at the Macmillan Coffee morning scheduled for September. A display table is to be established within the hall with a suggestion of a donation for any produce taken. All proceeds are to be donated to Macmillan Cancer in conjunction with the coffee morning donations received. Further details are to be provided at the next meeting.

9. To determine the schedule for the newsletter articles

Members determined a schedule for the production of a newsletter article. Consideration was given to the content of the article with a suggestion of including hints & tips, recipe for surplus produce, what you should be doing on your allotment this month and a possible feature on a specific vegetable proven to grow successfully at the sites. Information relating to the produce display at the Macmillan coffee morning is to also be included.

10. Matters for Future Discussion

No further items were identified.

11. Items for Information Only

Meeting closed at 11.30am
Next Meeting: Tuesday 16th July 10.00am