

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT BEECHINGS OVER, GOOSE GREEN, LYNDHURST ON MONDAY, 2 MARCH 2009 AT 7.15 PM**

**Present:** Mrs E A Butcher (Chairman), Mr F Alexander, Mr G Bisson and Miss H Palmer.

**In Attendance:** Mrs M Weston (Clerk to the Council).

**Apologies for Absence:** An apology for absence was received from Mr M Rollé.

**Declarations of Interest**

None.

**Minutes of Previous Committee Meeting**

The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 24 October 2008 were signed as a true and accurate record.

**Matters Arising:**

**(a) Chickens**

The Clerk reported that at least three allotment holders were still keeping more than the permitted number of chickens, but had been given one year in which to address the situation.

**RESOLVED:** That allotment holders with more than the permitted number of chickens on their plots be reminded in a letter to be sent out at the end of July of the need to reduce their stock of chickens in order to comply with the allotment regulations.

**(a) Plots 87/88**

Following discussions with the tenant, tenancy had been transferred to Mr Bradley Wilson, who had taken over both plots.

**(b) Plots 58/59**

It had not been necessary to take legal action regarding these plots as the tenant had now vacated both plots and they had subsequently been re-let, although no rental would be charged until October 2009 due to the condition in which the plots had been left.

**(c) Plot 98**

It was noted that the asbestos shed still remained on this plot.

**RESOLVED:** That estimates for its removal be obtained by the Clerk.

**Allotment Terms and Conditions**

Miss Palmer had drawn up a new set of Terms and Conditions, the aim of which was to safeguard the interests of allotment tenants as well as the Parish Council. Several small amendments were made.

**RESOLVED:** That the Terms and Conditions be adopted and sent out with invitations to renew tenancies in Autumn 2009. A copy is attached to these minutes.

**Fees**

It was noted that it had been impossible to implement the fee structure agreed at the last meeting due to the time scale involved.

**RESOLVED:** That an increase in fees be notified to all allotment holders giving one year's notice that they would be implemented in October 2010 as follows:

Starter Plot - £20.00

Half plot - £30.00

Full plot - £60.00

### **Fencing**

**RESOLVED:** That as an allowance had been made for this item in the budget requirement for 2009/2010 the Clerk contact Mr Brett Wateridge and obtain estimates for

- (1) Stock proof fencing at the Romsey Road end.
- (2) Stock proof fencing abutting land adjoining Westwood Road.
- (3) Stock proof fencing along the entire length outlined above.

### **Using Probation Service**

Discussion took place regarding the possibility of using the Probation Service unpaid workers in the community. Generally it was thought that past experience had proved that this was not really viable in the allotment gardens. However, it might be possible to take one unpaid worker on a one-to-one basis. Miss Palmer intimated that she would be willing to supervise this type of work.

**RESOLVED:** That if and when suitable work becomes available it might be possible to organise some work on a one-to-one basis but to hold this matter in abeyance for the time being.

### **Best Allotment Prize**

Miss Palmer reported that Ringwood Town Council ran a competition along these lines and felt it might be possible to do something similar in Lyndhurst, marking the winning allotment with a plaque and small gift such as a bag of fertilizer.

**RESOLVED:** To offer on an annual basis a small prize and a certificate for the allotment plot deemed by the committee to be "best on site", the criteria for the judging being productivity, presentation and utilisation of the allotment but with due regard to the physical abilities of the tenant. The Clerk would talk to the staff member concerned at Ringwood Town Council to see how they had approached this matter.

### **Any Other Business**

In the absence of any other business the Chairman thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Date