

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT THE ALLOTMENT GARDENS, PIKES HILL ON TUESDAY, 18 APRIL 2006 AT 6.00 PM

Present Mrs E A Butcher (Chairman), Messrs F Alexander, Professor K Barber, G Bisson and Mrs A. Trend.

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

Apologies for Absence None

Disclosures of Interest None

Minutes **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 17 October 2005 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising **(a) Vermin Control**

The Clerk reported that as it had been decided not to include this item in the budget for 2006/07 she had made no further enquiries on this matter. Vermin did not appear to be causing any great problems at the present time.

(b) Plot Numbering

The Clerk reported that as it had been decided not to include this item in the budget for 2006/07 she had made no further enquiries.

Track at Pikes Hill Entrance It was noted that no response had been received to the Parish Council's letter asking for a contribution to the cost of remedial work from owners of properties that used this track for vehicular access.

RESOLVED:

(a) To write to the Forestry Commission requesting that dragons teeth be placed so that vehicles could not travel from the higher Parish Council track to the Forestry Commission track.

(b) To accept the tender from Farwells in the sum of £1,862 (+ VAT) and ask them to proceed with the work when an answer had been received from the Forestry Commission and subject to liaison with Southern Electric regarding underground cable.

Unpaid Work in the Community Workers from the Probation Service had provided valuable assistance with plot clearance and had achieved a good relationship with plot holders.

Condition of Plots It was considered that the general condition of the allotment gardens was much improved on previous years. Particular mention was made of the efforts made on Plots 16/17A/17B/17C and 17D. These plots had been cleared to ground level by the Parish Council and were now being successfully worked by new allotment holders.

Clearance
Work

It was noted that Mr Malcom had made very little attempt to remove the items from Plots 61, 66 and 67 which did not comply with allotment guidelines.

RESOLVED: To ask Mr Malcom his intentions regarding these plots and to ask for an assurance that he would remove the birch saplings on Plot 67.

It was agreed that Plots 65 and 68/71 were most in need of plot clearance. At the present time Plot 65 contained a large amount of rubbish (metal, miscellaneous and earth/roots etc). The ground was very uneven and contained a large number of holes. Plots 68/71 had been cleared to ground level by the Probation Service. Birch saplings had been cut but roots now needed removal.

RESOLVED:

(a) That estimates be obtained for a “grabber” lorry to remove all rubbish from the site.

(b) That estimates be obtained for a man and digger to remove the tree roots from plots 68/71.

Implications of
Bird Flu

The Clerk stated that she had made a record of which plot holders kept birds and was ready to notify them should Government directives prove this necessary.

Allotment
Association

RESOLVED: That Allotment holders who had expressed an interest in forming an Association be invited to a meeting at which the matter could be discussed.

Any Other
Business

(a) Beekeeping

The Clerk informed the Committee that it was necessary for beekeepers to have insurance in order to keep bees in the allotment gardens. This could be obtained through the Beekeepers Association.

(b) Footpath to Romsey Road

It was noted that gate from the Westwood Road end of the allotments to Romsey Road was used as a shortcut for dog walkers. The Clerk had asked the Forestry Commission if this entrance could be removed and a reply was awaited.

RESOLVED: To ensure that this was not a public right of way and if this proved to be the case, provided the Forestry Commission were in agreement, to close this entrance to members of the public.

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

Chairman _____

Date _____

