

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 2nd September at Brickhill Community Centre, Avon Drive, Brickhill

Present: Cllrs Crofts, Waterhouse, Wilkins, 3 members of the public and the Acting Clerk

1	Apologies for absence:- None	
2	Declarations of acceptance of interest in items on the agenda Cllr Waterhouse declared a personal interest in matters pertaining to the allotment site by way of his allotment tenancy. However, a dispensation has been granted to Cllr Waterhouse with regard to Brickhill Allotments.	
3	Public Open Session Q: Could anything be done about the track way leading up to the allotment site? Bedford Borough council own the track way and this is not a designated highway but the Parish Council will ask the Borough if the Pothole Hit Squad can visit and carry out repairs. The track way is also in regular use by visitors to the Scout Hut for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Q: Could the vegetation on the outside of the perimeter fence be cut back? It was resolved to ask the Borough to carry out this work. Q: Who delivers the wood chip and is it free? The wood chip is delivered free of charge by local companies whenever they are in the area. The council will ask if further deliveries can be made.	
4	To confirm minutes from meeting held on Tuesday 3rd June It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record of the meeting.	
5	To note the winning entries for the Allotment Gardening competition Best New Plot – plot 11 & 94 Best Existing Plot – plot no 195 Congratulations to the winners who will all receive £30 of gardening vouchers.	
6	To receive a report on management of the allotment site The report was noted and it was resolved not to hold an Open Morning at the present time. However, if the number of vacant plots rises significantly then the allotments officer could proceed and hold an open morning. It was also suggested that an advertisement is placed within the Brickhill newsletter in the next edition.	Allotments Officer
7	To note the spend against budget for Brickhill Allotments The report was noted there were no items for discussion.	
8	To consider whether to provide an additional skip for the Allotment Site in the Autumn It was resolved to order a skip for October to be staffed by our contractor and tenants would be informed that green waste and wood would not be permitted since these items could be composted or burnt. A notice would be displayed on the gates once a date had been booked.	Allotments Officer

9	<p><u>To receive a report regarding maintenance of Waveney Green</u></p> <p>The report was noted. The wooden play boat was now repaired.</p> <p>The parish council had received a letter of complaint regarding dog fouling on the children's play area. The cost to fence off the play area would be approximately £7200 + VAT and the smaller play area £3950 + VAT. The play area is inspected weekly and this has never been identified as a problem. Similarly the litter picker visits the site 2-3 times weekly has not reported any problems nor has Brickhill Lower School Football Club who use the Green on Saturday mornings. It was resolved not to install fencing around the play area as this was an isolated complaint and the cost was prohibitive. However, it was resolved to replace the wooden posts (several posts have rotted and been removed) that form part of the landscaping of the play area and form a natural boundary. In addition it was resolved to install 2 signs near the large play area and 1 sign near the toddler play area requesting dog owners to keep dogs on leads and away from the play equipment plus some additional A4 signs on the boundary of Waveney Green. Costs and design would be circulated to members of the committee for approval prior to completing the order.</p> <p>2 sections of the footpaths on Waveney Green had worsened during the past year and members had visited the site prior to the meeting. It was resolved not to undertake any repairs at the present time. This item will continue to be monitored and included within the Waveney Green management report presented at each meeting.</p> <p>Members resolved not to grant permission for the tree to be felled behind no 28 Francis Groves close but that the resident had permission to cut away any ivy if they wished to do so.</p> <p>Bat Boxes have now been purchased and these would be installed once the Park Ranger has identified which trees would be most suitable. Cllr Wilkins informed members that Beds Borough Council has a surplus of bat boxes (not woodcrete) and the parish council could apply for these. Members resolved to install the 5 purchased bat boxes and to discuss if there was a need for anymore on the Green with the park ranger from Bedford Borough Council.</p>	<p>Allotments Officer</p> <p>Allotments Officer</p>
10	<p><u>Memorial Plaque</u></p> <p>It was resolved to plant a London plane tree grade 16-18 £340 + VAT plus a plaque supplied by Wrighton & Barker with the wording "Planted 2014 by Brickhill Parish Council on the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1". The existing bench would be turned round to face towards Waveney Green as part of the project.</p>	
11	<p><u>To note the spend against budget for Waveney Green</u></p> <p>The report was noted, there were no items for consideration</p>	
12	<p><u>To confirm date of next meeting - Tuesday 4th November 2014</u></p>	

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Approved by Chairman
4th November 2014