

Minutes of Allotment Committee Meeting held in The Rackliff Centre Rusthall on 18th September 2017 at 8:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllr Benoy, Cllr Edwards and Cllr Duncombe, Cllr Punyer and Cllr Smith

OFFICER PRESENT: Mrs S Denne – Clerk

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT: Yes

Cllr Benoy welcomed Cllr Smith to the Committee

1. **Enquire whether anyone present intends to film, photograph and/or record the meeting** - None
2. **Apologies for Absence** – None
3. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Benoy and Cllr Smith have an allotment plot
4. **Minutes:** To resolve that the minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 19th June 2017 were agreed, and it was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman signed them as a true record
- 4.1 Matters outstanding from these minutes (not listed as separate agenda items) –**Item 6** – Repair of fencing at Wickham Gardens to be completed by the end of October. **Item 7** – Felting of roof still to be carried out.
5. **Finances – i. Allotment expenditure 2016/2017 and for first half of 2017** – The Clerk informed the members on receipts and expenditure for the last financial year and the first six months of this year.
ii. Review plot rental fee – After much discussion the members agreed to increase the plot rental from £4.75 to £5.75, starting from October 2018. There had been no rent increase since obtaining the allotment sites from TWBC in 2013, whose own sites were now £9. The sites required continuous maintenance to the boundary fences and damage caused by vandals. Although the allotments were not expected to be run as a business they should not, however, be subsidised as much as they are. Clerk to inform plot holders.
6. **To consider an Allotment Competition 2018** –The Clerk suggested to the members that perhaps a competition for plot holders would encourage more of them to keep their plots well attended. It was agreed that it was worth considering. Cllrs and Clerk to discuss further.
7. **Fruit Tree Pruning on Wickham gardens** – Clerk informed members that the person who agreed to prune the trees had not done so. Cllr Benoy to contact an experienced fruit tree pruner for advice.
8. **Clerk’s Report** – Clerk informed the members that RPC now belonged to the National Allotment Association and she received a regular magazine, should anyone wish to borrow it. She also reminded members that the grass contract is to be renewed for the next financial year. She will produce a first draft in December. Clerk awaiting report from tree surgeon, there is Ash Die back on two of the allotment sites and an oak tree on the Southwood Road extension site requires attention. Ash trees to be monitored annually.
9. **Chairman’s Report** – Padlocks to be fitted to two gates in October, after Clerk has informed plot holders of code. Cllr Benoy also asked the Clerk to contact plot holders and ask them if there was anything that they would like the RPC to buy in bulk and then sell on to them, for their allotment plots. He also informed the meeting that the Committee was still considering what to do with the old Primrose site.
10. **Open session for questions from the public:** A member of the public enquired as to when the grass at WG will be cut. Clerk to contact contractor. A member of the public enquired whether bees were still being considered. Clerk informed her that the person who submitted an interest had since suffered with bad health.

The Meeting closed at 20.55