

Minutes of the Footpaths & Allotments Committee Meeting

Held on 7th December 2015 at 8.00 p.m. in the Bush Room

Present: - Cllrs. Marcus Fry (Chair), Alison Peters (AP) (Chairman), Steve Blick (SB), Denis Sanigar (DS) (AAA),
Graham Smith (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

Paul Caddick (PC), David Morgan, Marie-Anne Buckingham. (MB)

2. Evacuation Procedures

Evacuation procedures were noted

3. Public Participation

None

4. Declaration of interests

None

5. Minutes of the previous meeting

5.1. Minutes of the previous meeting held on 7th September 2015

15.091 Resolved: The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2015 were agreed and signed by the chairman.

5.2. Matters arising –
None

5.3 Outstanding Actions -
None

6. Budget

(Clerk) provided within the agenda packs an analysis of 2016/17 budgets taking into account no increases from the previous year in both income and expenditure as approved by the F & GP committee.

(MF) proposed that draft Footpaths & Allotments budget 2016/17 be approved. (AW) seconded the proposal and (SB) agreed.

15.092 Resolved: The Footpaths & Allotments committee approve the draft budget 2016/17 as presented by (Clerk).

7. Allotments

6.1 (DS) reported that there were no problems at the allotments at the moment.

A tidy had taken place and involved many allotment holders. The far end of the allotments had been trimmed down, the shrubs overhanging the path border adjacent to the A38 houses had been cut back as had the "Hawkins" access path and the surrounding land. Communal compost bins are located behind the AAA shed and waste has been recycled and composted and ready to go back to the allotment holders (free of charge).

The AAA association recently contributed to St Helen's School 50 year celebrations by giving every child a potted daffodil bulb. (With thanks to Almondsbury Garden Centre for contributing).

(MF) suggested that a school visit be organised to visit the allotments, to which (DS) agreed and would look into this as part of the 50 year celebrations as the original Alveston allotments holders, (believed to be located at Greenhill) were also involved with St Helens' school opening celebrations.

The (AAA) have recently purchased both a rotivator and a mower. There will be a H & S rotivator training course to be given to all allotment holders scheduled for early spring.

AAA Grant Aid application has been submitted to (Clerk).

The allotments which are prone to winter flooding (1 & 19) have not had the issue this year. Ivor Clarke had taken over plot 1A where he has dug and manured this as has the plot holder at 19, which has prevented a repeat of previous years waterlogging.

The access track is working well and access to the allotments is good in all weathers.

Committee meetings are all going well with the next scheduled for February.

(Clerk) asked (DS) if the (AAA) had received a copy of a request from the plot holder of plot 34 to move position. As (Clerk) had not received a reply he placed the next applicant on the waiting list on hold until a reply had been received. (DS) recommended that the existing plot holder be allowed to switch plots and the new applicant be offered plot 34.

FP151207-1: Write to plot holder 34 approving move to 31, and to offer plot 34 to new applicant.

Action to Clerk

8. Footpaths

The Footpath Calendar has been selling well and it is expected that all 500 will be sold prior to yearend. Ten community groups have taken copies of the calendar to sell to raise funds.

An article has been published in the Thornbury Gazette and on the Gazette website publicising the calendar.

(MF) read out a letter from a resident praising the calendar initiative.

(MF) informed the committee that "great work" had been done by; (MB), Lindsay Saunders and her team at SGC and the users of the footpaths in reporting and repairing footpath issues. Improvements had been made to Lower Hazel to A38 (horses issue) and to "Boiling Wells" footpath where much of the footpath has become boggy.

(MF) informed the committee that the footpaths rely upon the goodwill of the landowners and asked the committee if they would consider anything that may be done by the Parish Council for the land owners. (AP) recommended that the council consider ways to improve the Annual Parish Meeting and to invite landowners and other parties who make a contribution to the community and to make the Annual Parish Meeting more of an event and recommended that this be placed on the Parish Council agenda for discussion on 14th December.

(AP) also recommended that 2016 the Parish Council produce Christmas cards in October for land owners and other parties who contribute to the wellbeing of the Parish for distribution at Christmas 2016.

9. Bus Shelters.

In view of the fact that no resident has applied for the vacancy to replace George Johnson, (Clerk) suggested that the company used to clean the bus shelter be re-approached for the 2016 bus shelter clean.

10. Street Care

None

11. Website

(AP) recommended that a councillor adopt responsibility for co-ordinating web-site content and asked (Clerk) to place on the Parish Council agenda for discussion on 14th December.

12. Correspondence

Refer to items 7 & 8 of minutes.

13. Any other business

None

Meeting ended at 20.50pm.

**The next meeting of the Footpaths & Allotments Committee is on
Monday 7th March 2016 at 8.00pm.**