

**BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM, DH7 8JJ**  
**ON TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 10.00 AM**

**PRESENT**

**Councillor Bonner (in the Chair)**  
**and Councillors Bell, Mrs Elmer, Grantham, Jamieson, Sims and Turnbull**

**Ail. 35     DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Ail. 36     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Catterson, Clegg & Nelson

**RESOLVED:** To receive the apologies.

**Ail. 37     STATION AVENUE – UPDATE FOLLOWING TREE SURVEY**

Following discussion at the December meeting, a health & safety tree survey was carried out by Arbor-Folia. No trees were within the boundary of the allotment and no works were considered urgent. The Countryside Ranger has been contacted to see if they could complete any necessary works.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend pursuing the Countryside Ranger and arranging a site meeting, to see if the moderate priority works could be completed.

**Ail. 38     COMMERCIAL STREET – REQUEST FOR A SKIP**

A request had been received for a skip, from Plot 10.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that the provision of a skip is organised and all tenants are informed.

**Ail. 39     STATION AVENUE – REQUEST FOR A SKIP**

A request had been received for a skip, from Plot 21.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that the provision of a skip is organised and all tenants are informed.

B.N

**All. 40**      **LOW BROWNEY**

**a) Asbestos removal**

Plot 21 has recently been relinquished leaving a derelict greenhouse on the plot. Safestrip have carried out a site visit and quoted £2,000 to clear the asbestos and separate other debris. If a skip could be provided at the same time, Safestrip would separate the other debris into this skip. Members discussed the previous tenant's liability to clear the plot and it was discussed that this would be beyond their means.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend Safestrip remove the asbestos and separate the other debris into a skip and to ensure there is no asbestos debris is left within the plot.

: To recommend arranging a skip for Safestrip to utilise.

**b) Request for a skip**

A request had been received for a skip, from Plot 39.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that the provision of a skip is organised and all tenants are informed.

**All. 41**      **COCKHOUSE LANE**

An update was given to members regarding the untidy caravan located at Cockhouse Lane allotment site. Two letters have been sent to the tenant requesting the caravan be cleaned and painted brown. The tenant has moved residence, so the letters were emailed to ensure receipt.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend a letter be sent to the tenant giving a date for the caravan to be cleaned and painted. If this fails to be carried out by the next Allotment Meeting, further action will be decided upon then.

**All. 42**      **HIGH BROWNEY**

**a) Request for a skip**

Plot 8/9 have requested a skip. Waste from an adjoining plot is piled against the fence and is in danger of collapsing onto a greenhouse. Plot 13 has also requested a skip as he has had to move from Plot 2 due to flooding issue and has needed to clear a lot of remaining debris.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend sending a letter to the adjoining tenant requesting the debris be removed when the skip is provided.

: To recommend that the provision of a skip is organised and all tenants are informed.

**b) Permission for 4 dwarf fruit trees**

Permission has been requested from Plot 8&9 to plant 4 dwarf fruit trees.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that permission is given to plant 4 dwarf fruit trees.

**c) Update on ongoing flooding issues on the site**

- The tenant on Plot 2 has relocated to Plot 13 and this plot is being kept vacant at present due to flooding.
- Plot 1 has now complained water is now running on to his plot.
- Advice has been sought from a Contractor who has recommended creating a soakaway on the vacant plot.
- A local is carrying out a feasibility report to Avant Homes regarding draining issues in the adjoining gardens.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend contacting the resident to share information regarding the issue.

: To recommend contacting the water authority, as no problems had been experienced in the past until the new housing development.

**All. 43 HAMILTON ROW – ONGOING FLOODING ISSUES**

**a) Update regarding ongoing flooding issues on the allotment site.**

- The owner of the adjoining field has been confirmed via the Land Register.
- Northumbrian Water have been contacted for advice.
- The owner of the field will not allow any work unless the Parish Council erects a field gate into the farmers field.
- A Contractor has quoted £980 to install a land drain at the bottom of the allotment site.
- There has been communication with the Countryside Ranger who is currently addressing issues relating to flooding on the Deerness railway path.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend arranging a site visit with the Countryside Ranger and the Esh Winning ward members.

**b) Plot 1**

The tenant's family have replied and wish to give up the plot. Following a site visit, the garage is padlocked and there are still chickens onsite.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend writing to the tenant's family with a 1 month deadline date to clear the garage and remove the chickens.

Handwritten signature or initials in black ink, appearing to be 'BN'.

**All. 44**     **DURHAM ROAD – ONGOING FLOODING ISSUES**

A soakaway has been built at the entrance to the allotment site. A resident has complained this has not worked and water is still coming towards their property.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend investigating who the land belongs to between the site and the housing.

: To recommend locating the nearest manhole.

: To recommend costing a field drain.

**All. 45**     **NATIONAL ALLOTMENT SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP**

Payment of the membership fees for the above is requested.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend payment of the membership fees.

**All. 46**     **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS JUNE 2024 – MARCH 2025**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend approval of the following meetings:

Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	10am
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2024	10am
Tuesday	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024	10am
Tuesday	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	10am

**All. 47**     **ANY MATTER RELATING TO THE ALLOTMENTS A MEMBER WISHES TO DISCUSS**

**a) Skip Price Increase**

Members were advised that Ward Bros have increased their skip prices by £10.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend accepting the price increase.

**b) Finance Report**

It was requested that due to the rise in costs and the additional expenditure needed due to the increase in flooding this year, a financial report be drawn up and taken to the next meeting for discussion and to later be shared with the Finance Committee.

**RESOLVED:** To recommend compiling a financial report for discussion at the June Allotment Meeting

**c) Commercial Street**

A request has been made to litter pick the lane that runs alongside Commercial Street Allotment.

**RESOLVED:** It was recommended that both Councillor Elmer and the Parish Council report the issue to Durham County Council.

The following was discussed in private:

**All. 48     DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF QUOTATIONS FOR FENCE WORK AT THE FOLLOWING ALLOTMENT SITE:**

**a) Plot 89 High Browney**

**RESOLVED:** To recommend awarding the contract to DK Horticulture.

The meeting closed at 10.50am

Signed B. Adams  
Date 15/3/24