

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM
ON TUESDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2021 AT 10 AM

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Bonner (in the Chair)
and Councillors Grantham, Jamieson and Sims

Ail. 39 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Ail. 40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bell, Mrs Catterson, Mrs Elmer and Turnbull.

RESOLVED: To receive the apologies.

Ail. 41 SKIP HIRE PRICE INCREASE FROM SEPTEMBER 2021 ONWARDS

Information had been received from the skip contractor that as from September 2021 there would be a price increase.

RESOLVED: To take for information.

Ail. 42 PEST CONTROL CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR 2022 – BLACK ROAD / HAMILTON ROW / COMMERCIAL STREET / EMPIRE FIELD / HIGH BROWNEY / LOW BROWNEY

The Contract for Pest Control is due for renewal in January 2022 for Black Road Allotment Site, February 2022 for Hamilton Row, Commercial Street and Empire Field allotment sites. April 2022 for High Browney allotment site and May 2022 for Low Browney allotment site.

RESOLVED: To recommend renewing the Pest Control Contracts for 2022 -2023 with Durham County Council.

Ail. 43 HIGH BROWNEY - FENCE REPLACEMENT – PLOTS 2 & 3

The perimeter fence at 2 and 3 High Browney required replacement due to health and safety concerns. The Allotment Officer requested 3 quotes. The members were informed that the fence has been replaced by DK Horticulture at a cost of £1750.00.

RESOLVED: To take for information.

AII. 44 BLACK ROAD - TREE INSPECTION AND WORK REQUIRED

The Members were informed that a tree survey was carried out by Oliver's Tree Services. Urgent tree pruning had been carried out at a cost of £90. It was recommended that work would be required on 2 poplar trees within the next 2-5 years to avoid any form of branch loss.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer and Tree Service contractor re-survey the condition of the tree in 2 years' time and to re-agenda when work is required on the 2 poplar trees.

AII. 45 BLACK ROAD - PLOT 10 - REQUEST TO ERECT SHED AND GREENHOUSE

A request has been received from a new tenant on the above mentioned allotment site, to erect a shed and a greenhouse. The proposed shed is to be 8x6ft and constructed from wood. The proposed greenhouse is to be 8x6ft and constructed from aluminium and glass.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotments Officer writes to the tenant to inform them that their request has been approved on the condition that the shed and greenhouse be kept in good condition and removed at the end of the tenancy unless instructed otherwise.

AII. 46 FOLDS CLOSE - PLOT 11 – REQUEST TO SITE SMALL METAL CONTAINER

A request has been received to site a small metal container on plot 11 at the above mentioned allotment site. The tenant has informed me that the container will be used to store allotment equipment, as they had previously had items stolen from the plot.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer writes to the tenants granting permission to site the container on the condition that the container is small in size and that they must remove the container at the end of their tenancy.

AII. 47 FINAL DRAFT AGREEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION AND DISCUSSION

The Allotments Officer proposed 5 new finalised agreements for consideration:

No livestock / No structures / No dividing fences: Alder Park

No livestock: Black Road / Broompark

No livestock / Parking information: Low Meadowfield

Cockerels permitted: Hamilton Row / Empire Field / Cockhouse Lane / Folds Close

Livestock permitted (not cockerels): All other sites

RESOLVED: To recommend that the date be added to the final sheet for signing.
: To recommend that proposed allotment agreements be accepted and that the agreements be sent to tenants with the yearly invoices in February 2022.
: To thank the Allotments Officer for her hard work in compiling the new agreements.

All. 48 COCKHOUSE LANE – STORM DAMAGE TO FENCE

Councillor Jamieson informed the meeting that due to the recent storm, damage was caused to the perimeter fence at the above mentioned allotment site. As the fence was obstructing a public footpath, Councillor Jamieson had arranged for an emergency temporary repair to be carried out on the fence.

RESOLVED: To recommend that as the fence is rotten, that the Allotment Officer obtains three quotes to replace the entire length of the perimeter fence including the cutting back/poisoning of the brambles/bushes so that they do not cause damage to the proposed new fence.

All. 49 HAMILTON ROW – LARGE STORAGE CONTAINER

The Allotment Officer informed the meeting that a large metal shipping container had been sited on an allotment plot at Hamilton Row.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer writes to the tenant to inform them that:

- They must request permission before siting items such as the container onto the plot.
- They must remove the container.
- If they would like to site a container on the allotment plot for storage purposes, it must be smaller and the container must be removed upon termination of their tenancy.

All. 50 LOW BROWNEY– PLOT 43 – ERECTION OF BOUNDARY FENCE

The Allotment Officer informed the meeting that the tenant on the above mentioned allotment plot was notified that the Council had agreed to erect a 4ft fence to the boundary of the plot. However the tenant had requested permission to professionally erect a 6ft fence at his own expense.

RESOLVED: To take for information.

All. 51 HIGH BROWNEY - REQUEST FOR A SECOND SKIP

Following the provision of a skip to the High Browney allotment site, the tenants had informed the Allotments Officer that they were unable to remove all of the rubbish into the skip and requested consideration of the provision of a second skip for the site.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer arranges for the provision of a second skip, so that the remainder of the rubbish left on site can be disposed of.
: To recommend that the Allotments Officer writes to the tenants to inform them of the details regarding the provision of the second skip.

All. 52 HIGH MEADOWFIELD – STORM DAMAGE TO FENCES

a) Plot 1 – Fence Replacement Required

The Allotment Officer informed the meeting that as a result of the recent storm, the allotment fence at the above mentioned allotment plot had collapsed. Due to the urgency of the replacement, the Allotment Officer had so far only managed to obtain one quote for the work required.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer proceeds with the replacement of the fence as soon as possible, at the cost already obtained.

b) Plot 53 – Fence Repair Required

The Allotment Officer informed the meeting that as a result of the recent storm, the allotment fence at the above mentioned allotment plot had collapsed. Due to the urgency of the replacement, the Allotment Officer had so far only managed to obtain one quote for the work required.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer proceeds with the repair of the fence as soon as possible, at the cost already obtained.

All 53. DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF QUOTATIONS FOR WORK AT THE FOLLOWING ALLOTMENT SITES:

Access to 5 plots at Low Meadowfield

The Allotment Officer informed the Members that 2 new fences and a path were required as a means of access to the 5 plots at the rear of the site which are currently inaccessible.

RESOLVED: To recommend awarding the contract to Kevin Wilson Gardening Services.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Signed Carmel Fraser
Date 17/12/21

