

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE OF CHOPPINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL HELD AT 7PM ON WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2015 IN THE PARISH
COUNCIL OFFICES**

Members present:

Cllr A Iley
P Munley
Cllr P Vaughan (Chairman)

In attendance:

Mr D L Nicholson, Parish Clerk and Mrs A Brindley, Assistant Parish Clerk and 19 tenants/community members.

A009/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A Barrell (work commitment), Cllr R Butler (prior engagement), Cllr J Foster (illness), Cllr G Huntley (prior commitment) and Cllr W Ogilvie (leave of absence).

The meeting accepted these apologies, recognising they were proper reasons for absence.

**A010/15 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF INTEREST, PREJUDICIAL
AND NON-PREJUDICIAL**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other registerable personal interest(s) were made.

A011/15 3. TENANTS OPEN FORUM

The Parish Clerk apologised to the meeting for the failure to send individual notices of the meeting to all tenants.

Responding to question from the floor of the meeting the Parish Clerk and the Committee Chairman reported:

1. **Security Fencing** - tenants were advised that the Parish Council has allocated financial resources to install palisade fencing to the exposed north and east perimeter of the East Terrace Allotments. Quotations have been received and accepted, however installation cannot commence until Northumberland County Council can agree boundaries. Agreement on these boundaries is anticipated within a few weeks and it is hoped that installation will commence in January.
2. **Weed control** – the Parish Council will be increasing the local workforce to enable weed control measures to be improved.
3. **Track surfaces** – the Parish Council is trying to establish

a drainage plan with Northumberland County Council and Earth Balance Ltd. Land drainage is necessary following work undertaken by Earth Balance over 20 years ago, when ditches and other drainage was removed during the construction of a willow plantation. Once a drainage scheme has been developed the Parish Council will consider improvements to the north track.

4. **Earth Balance planning applications** – tenants expressed concern that applications for housing on land adjacent to the East Terrace allotments would threaten the integrity of the allotments and in the extreme the Parish Council might dispose of the allotments as land value increases. The Parish Clerk stated that no planning applications had been submitted and that the Parish Council would take allotment tenants views into account when considering any application. The Chairman assured tenants that the Parish Council will take all steps to protect the allotments.
5. **Future meetings** – The Chairman indicated that during 2016 there will be 2 meetings for tenants. The first will be held in March when the Parish Council will receive fees due for 2016.

A012/15 4. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 8 JUNE 2015

The minutes were received and adopted as being a true record with the Chairman authorized to sign as such.

A013/15 5. ANY MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

A014/15 6. Financial report by the Parish Clerk

1. Lettings – The Parish Clerk reported that letting fees were expected to be £63 for the period 2016/17
2. Improvements – The Parish Council has confirmed that a sum not exceeding £20,000 has been allocated for the improvement of allotments

A015/15 7. ALLOTMENT TRANSFERS

The Parish Clerk reported that Northumberland County Council is expected to be able to confirm a date for all land transfers sometime during 2016.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9pm

Chairman

Date