

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE OF CHOPPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY
21ST APRIL 2016 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES**

Members present:

Cllr R Butler
Cllr G Huntley
Cllr A Iley
P Munley
Cllr P Vaughan (Chairman)

In attendance:

Mrs A Brindley, Assistant Parish Clerk and 19 tenants/community members.

A016/15 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr J Foster (Childcare), Cllr W Ogilvie (leave of absence), Cllr J Oswell (Work), Cllr AE Barrell (Work)

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

**A017/15 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND
OTHER REGISTERABLE PERSONAL INTEREST(S)**

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

A018/15 3. TENANTS OPEN FORUM

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

1. **Security Fencing** – The security fencing at the top of the site is now erected. Work will start alongside the willow next week. NCC has arranged for a contractor to reinstate the ditch and remove the willow that is lying along the side of the track which will allow the remainder of the fencing to be erected. This will include a small safety fence at the far side of the ditch to prevent anyone approaching on the Earth Balance side falling into it. This work should be completed within 6 weeks. The security fencing will cost the Parish Council just under £25k to erect and when considered together with work commissioned by Northumberland County Council to reinstate a ditch removed by the original Earth Balance organisation, represents a considerable investment in the allotment site.
2. **Drainage** – The ditch will improve the flooding but the problem is still in need of a land drainage scheme. The Earth Balance/NCC land will

require drainage if it is to build upon so we are talking with the planners to ensure that any drainage scheme will benefit our land. The many instances of flooding have been managed well and with good humour by allotment tenants and the Chairman thanked them for their patience.

3. **Inspections** – There was an acknowledgement that the frequency of allotment inspections should be increased with speedier enforcement measures when allotments fall into disrepair.

4. TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 11 NOVEMBER 2015

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

5. ANY MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

Lettings – The rents for 2016/17 have increased for the first time in a number of years and now stand at £63/plot. Rent money is coming in and we anticipate no problems in recovering rents.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Chairman Date