

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE OF CHOPPINGTON PARISH
COUNCIL WEDNESDAY 13 JUNE 2018 IN THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES**

Members present:

Cllr J Foster, Chairman
Cllr A Iley
Cllr J Rowell

In attendance:

Mrs A Brindley Deputy Parish Clerk

Before the meeting members had visited the Bomarsund site, to inspect the allotments and view the internal track that had been recently overlaid with recycled materials.

A001/18 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr H Allsopp, Cllr Barrell, Cllr Vaughan (work commitments), Cllr G Huntley (family commitments). Cllr Watson (LoA)

**A002/18 2. MEMBERS' DECLARATION OF DISCLOSABLE
PECUNIARY AND OTHER REGISTERABLE
INTEREST(S).**

No declarations were made.

A003/18 3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR 2018/19

Cllr J Foster being the sole nominee was appointed to serve as Chair for the council year 2018/19

A004/18 4. APOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR 2018/19

Cllr K Grimes being the sole nominee was appointed to serve as Vice Chair for the council year 2018/19

**A005/18 5. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING
HELD ON 18 APRIL 2018**

Members agreed the minutes of the Allotment Committee of 18 April 2018.

A006/18 6. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising

A007/18 7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

Members of the public asked questions on fires and security issues, which were addressed later as agenda items. A request was made for weed killing along willow verges, and a reiteration of a request for a turning circle. A question was asked about permitting the hanging of washing on allotment plots.

The Deputy Parish Clerk noted the requests and regarding the question of washing advised that the purpose of allotments was the growing of produce and the keeping of some livestock, it was not a garden. It would not be the intention to prohibit it, but it should not impede the actual business on the allotment site.

A008/18 8. REPORT BY THE DEPUTY PARISH CLERK.

1. Lettings 2018/19.

It was reported that only two plots remained to be filled at the Bomarsund site out of 45. All on the waiting list had been contacted by letter to confirm their interest on remaining. Some had not replied so have been removed from the list.

2. Security

It was reported that bolt cutters had been used to cut through the palisade fencing along the willow side of the site. Two allotments had had items stolen from them however all except a knife had been recovered in the ground to the rear of the allotments. Allotment holders also noticed evidence of a camp in the willows. Police had been informed of the theft and the camp.

3. Fires

The Deputy Parish Clerk requested direction from members regarding a change to the Council's policy on fires. Currently it is the policy that tenants may burn only organic matter, and that they must ensure that the wind direction is blowing away from neighbouring houses. Although most tenants most of the time follow this, on occasions when this policy has not been adhered to it has resulted in complaints to the Parish Council or to Environmental Health about noxious smells and excessive smoke. A fire constitutes a statutory nuisance under The Environmental Protection Act 1990 if it is affecting other people's premises to the extent that normal use of those premises is not possible. After consideration of the severity and/or frequency, a nuisance fire may result in a fine.

Most often the complaints made to the Parish Council are during the summer months from residents experiencing smoke blowing through open windows or into their gardens when they wish to sit out in the sun or dry washing. It is common practice on allotments to have certain periods during the year when fires are not allowed e.g. 1st April to 30 October and it is this type of exclusion that members may wish to consider as a change to policy.

4. Waste Materials

Most tenants can remove their rubbish in their own vehicles and the Council has assisted tenants removing exceptional larger or numerous items of waste materials from the allotment site. On two occasions the council has provided skips on site for the use of new tenants who need to clear their plots. Tenants have requested that periodically a skip is made available on site to clear the bulkier waste.

Resolved:

- 1. That the Council undertake a consultation with tenants regarding the length of the exclusion period for fires on site.**

- 2. That the Council arrange for the siting of a skip once or twice a year for the removal of exceptional waste materials from the site.**

The meeting closed at the conclusion of this item, there being no further business to be transacted.

Chairman

Date