

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM
ON THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2011, AT 9.30 AM

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs A Bonner (in the Chair)
and Councillors Akins, Mrs Gates, Kelley, Turnbull and Wilkinson

All. 18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

All. 19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bell, Mrs Leckenby, Nelson, Rippin and Stoddart.

Councillor Bell and Nelson were attending NALC Conference.

RESOLVED: To receive the apologies.

All. 20 PRESENTATION BY PAUL IRWIN AND RICHARD HUGGINS FROM
DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL ON THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S
ALLOTMENTS POLICY AND THEIR FUTURE MANAGEMENT

The above Officers gave a presentation on the Durham County Council's proposed allotment policy including the following points:

- Management of 164 sites (3500 plots) passed to Sport and Leisure Department
- Looking to adopt a standardised policy across the County
- Currently in process of writing to people on waiting lists to ascertain whether people are still interested - at present there are large waiting lists.
- Lack of site inspections in the past has resulted in misuse of sites e.g storage of rubbish, animals on plots, abuse of water.
- Looking to harmonise rents across the County - relating rent to plot size.
- Policy will include provisions for compliance with Animal Welfare Act/ Horse Passport Regulations 2009.
- Introduction of a formal warning system
- Proposals for a 12 month amnesty to allow tenants to comply with new policy.
- Consultation runs until 9th December 2011
- Durham County Council hoping to encourage formation of Self Managed Allotment Associations

- Proposals to discuss future management of arrangements with Town and Parish Councils
- Sites within Brandon and Byshottles Parish Council area are as follows:

1) Black Road, Langley Moor	-	6 plots
2) High Shaws, Brandon	-	10 - 15 plots
3) Hazel Avenue, Brandon	-	12 plots
4) Onslow Terrace, Langley Moor	-	18 plots
5) Rear Rock Terrace, New Brancepeth	-	12 plots
6) Fir Terrace, Esh Winning	-	9 plots

The Chairman enquired what would be the incentive for the Parish Council to take over the above sites. Mr Irwin suggested that there could be some finance through the AAP, Unitary Members budgets and a small amount from Durham County Council. He confirmed that Durham County Council would negotiate with the Parish Council at a time convenient to the Parish Council - there were no deadlines.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for their presentation.

RESOLVED: To respond to Durham County Council's consultation on the lettings policy and to obtain more information on the 6 allotment sites within the Parish Council before making any decisions on whether to take on their management.

All. 21 **LANGLEY GROVE**

a) The Allotment Officer informed the meeting that the clearance and fencing at Langley Grove had been completed and the cleared area would be divided into 5 plots.

RESOLVED: To take for information

b) Councillor Turnbull had been contacted by a tenant regarding the possibility of the installation of a street light at the site due to a series of break- ins at the site (Councillor Taylor had also been approached).

RESOLVED: To obtain an estimate for a street light and discuss at the next meeting

All. 22 **HAMILTON ROW**

A tenant of the site had informed the Council that the path through the site was being used as a short cut by people accessing the site from the adjacent field. Part of the fence had been broken and he requested whether it could be replaced.

RESOLVED: To verify ownership of the field and following a risk assessment decide whether replacement of the fence was appropriate.

All. 23 **COMMERCIAL STREET**

A request had been made for a skip

RESOLVED: To provide a skip, informing all tenants of the date the skip will be delivered.

The Allotment Officer also informed the meeting that the boundary of plot 27 may require new fencing as at present a hedge formed the boundary.

RESOLVED: To make a site inspection regarding the fence.

All. 24 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

BLACK ROAD

A tenant had requested permission to erect a greenhouse.

RESOLVED: To grant permission for the greenhouse.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

