

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM
ON TUESDAY 2ND MARCH 2010, AT 9.30 AM

PRESENT

**Councillor Bell (in the Chair)
and Councillors Akins, Allen, Turnbull and Wilkinson**

AII. 29 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs Gates.

RESOLVED: To receive the apology..

AII. 30 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

AII. 31 FOLDS CLOSE

Quotations were received for fencing at the above site.

RESOLVED: To accept the quotation from Wharton Landscapes

AII. 32 LANGLEY GROVE

Mrs Howe informed the meeting that Garage plot number 8 had now been vacated, the contents of the garage removed and arrears paid. A new tenant had taken up the tenancy.

RESOLVED: To take for information.

AII. 33 BROOMPARK

The tenant of plot number 9 had been given notice to quit and was waiting for the use of a vehicle to remove the Harris fencing left on the plot. The new tenant was prepared to take over the sheds.

RESOLVED: a) To give the former tenant 1 more week to remove the fence otherwise the Parish Council would arrange for its removal and charge the tenant for removal.

b) To inform the new tenant that he can now access the allotment and to make it clear that he has agreed to take the existing sheds.

AII. 34 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) COMMERCIAL STREET

Tenant of plot number 14 had been requested to remove the connection from the tap to his allotment.

RESOLVED: To take for information.

b) ALLOTMENT TRAINING SEMINAR

Several issues were raised following the attendance at the Allotment Training on 24th February 2010:

i) CHARGING TENANTS FOR WATER CONSUMPTION

Discussion took place on the above.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk makes a report on various options for charging tenants for water consumption in the future.

ii. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATIONS

Discussion took place on the possibility of allotment holders forming associations in order to self manage the allotments. It was the view of the meeting that at this time, the creation of Allotment Associations was not an option.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the allotments remain under the Parish Council's control at the present time.

iii. NSALG

The National Society of Allotment Gardens provides advice regarding all aspects of allotments.

RESOLVED: To investigate subscription to the Society.

iv. 1 MILE RULE

The seminar raised the point that allotments should be provided for the inhabitants of the Parish only. Statute provides that where the Parish Council discovers that a tenant lives more than one mile outside the area for which the allotments are provided the Parish Council can give notice to quit. The Parish Council's allotment agreement complies with this rule. Discussion took place on whether to change the agreement to only allow residents of the Parish to take an allotment.

RESOLVED: To recommend the agreement remain the same at present.

v. **GRAZING LAND**

With regard to grazing land it was stated that if the Council has a waiting list for allotments then grazing land should be turned back into allotments. However, Members felt that as land had been used for grazing for numerous years, this was unfeasible.

RESOLVED: To leave grazing sites as they are but to look at original deeds to determine usage of land.

The meeting closed at 11.00 am