

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
6 GOATBECK TERRACE, LANGLEY MOOR, DURHAM
ON TUESDAY 4TH MARCH 2014, AT 10.00 AM

PRESENT

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman took the Chair
Present Councillor Akins (in the Chair)
and Councillors Mrs Akins, Bell, Jamieson and Turnbull

All. 23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

All. 24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs Gates and Taylor.

RESOLVED: To receive the apologies.

All. 25 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS JUNE 2014 - MARCH 2015

RESOLVED: To approve the following meetings:

Tuesday	3rd June 2014	10.00 am
Tuesday	2nd September 2014	10.00 am
Tuesday	2nd December 2014	10.00 am
Tuesday	3rd March 2015	10.00 am

RESOLVED: To approve the calendar of meetings for 2014/15.

All. 26 FOLDS CLOSE

A request to provide wood chippings for the entrance footpath on the above site had been received.

The Members present thought that wood chippings be an unsuitable surface.

RESOLVED: To recommend making enquiries into the provision of road planings.

All. 27 **PEST CONTROL**

- a) The Allotment Officer reported that pest control was being undertaken at Commercial Street, Empire Field and Hamilton Row by Durham County Council. Concerns were raised about the potential future costs related to pest control. The issue of residents of Commercial Street depositing food waste in the street was also raised.

RESOLVED: :To recommend that the Parish Council contact the Neighbourhood Warden regarding the issue of food waste requesting advice.

: To recommend a letter be sent to tenants requesting that they be more careful with storage of feed and waste materials in order to minimise risk of rats.

b) **FOLDS CLOSE**

A tenant had reported rats on his allotment.

RESOLVED: To recommend that Durham County Council pest control look at the site and advise the Parish Council.

All. 28 **DURHAM ROAD**

a) **Request from tenant to install water**

The Members discussed the above request.

RESOLVED: To recommend that an estimate is obtained from Northumbrian Water Authority and the Plumber.

b) **Request from tenant to take over land adjacent to his plot**

The Members discussed the above.

RESOLVED: To recommend approval of the request providing tenant of adjacent plot has no objections.

All. 29 **REQUESTS FOR FENCING**

a) **EMPIRE FIELD**

A request had been received from a tenant to repair fencing on his plot.

RESOLVED: To inform the tenant that the Parish Council only repair boundary fencing, not internal.

All. 29 REQUESTS FOR FENCING (Continued)

b) HAMILTON ROW

A request had been received from a tenant to repair fencing on his plot.

RESOLVED: To inform the tenant that the Parish Council only repair boundary fencing, not internal.

All. 30 COMMERCIAL STREET

The Allotment Officer reported that a tenant who had recently accepted the offer of plot number 13 had requested a skip. However the tenant had since declined the plot. This plot is subject to fly tipping and so far people on the waiting list have been refusing the plot.

RESOLVED: To recommend that correspondence is sent to all those on the waiting list to ascertain interest.

All. 31 COCKHOUSE LANE

A request has been received from a tenant to add person as joint tenant of plot 1.

RESOLVED: To recommend that as the person is already on the waiting list, he would be added as joint tenant when reaching the top of the list.

All. 32 EMPIRE FIELD

A request for a skip had been received from a new tenant of plot 3a.

RESOLVED: To recommend provision of a skip.

All. 33 COMMERCIAL STREET

A request had been received from a tenant towards replacement fencing which had been stolen.

RESOLVED: To inform the tenant that the Parish Council only repair boundary fencing.

All. 34 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

a) FOLDS CLOSE

A tenant has requested to remain on plot 9 until young pigeons have grown and if it would be possible to give up one of his other plots to remain on plot 9.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the tenant is allowed a year to keep the plot then the option to remain on the plot would be considered.

b) **LANGLEY GROVE**

A letter had been received from a tenant at the above site regarding pot holes on the dirt track approaching the garages.

RESOLVED: To recommend the Allotment Officer inspect the area.

c) **LOW MEADOWFIELD**

A site visit had been made to the above site with regard to a request for a new footpath to access tenant's plots. It was found that the plots had not been cultivated for some time.

RESOLVED: To recommend that at the present time the request for a footpath be denied and to write to the tenant to ascertain if they are still interested in retaining the plots as there is currently a waiting list.

d) **STATION AVENUE**

A request had been received to repair the boundary gate on the plot which leads to the tap.

RESOLVED: To recommend repair or renewal of the gate.

e) **COMMERCIAL STREET**

- A request for another water tap on the site had been received.

RESOLVED: To recommend that an estimate be obtained from Northumbrian Water.

- A further complaint had been received from a tenant regarding unauthorised connections to the water taps on the site.
The Allotments Officer informed the Members that a letter had already been sent to all tenants regarding this issue.

RESOLVED: To recommend that a site inspection be made to verify if tenants had complied with Parish Councils previous request to remove connections and if not to send a follow up letter.

The meeting closed at 12.30 pm

Signed

Date