

BRANDON & BYSHOTTLES PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON TUESDAY 1st DECEMBER 2020 AT 10 AM

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Bonner (in the Chair)
and Councillors Bell, Bonner, Jamieson and Turnbull

All. 22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

All. 23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Grantham and Mrs Nelson.

RESOLVED: To receive the apologies.

All. 24 HAMILTON ROW – REQUEST FOR SKIP

A tenant from Hamilton Row allotment site had requested a skip.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotments Officer organises the provision of a skip and writes to all tenants to inform them.
: To recommend that the Community Highways Worker is present to discard of any rubbish on paths and around the allotment site.

All. 25 BLACK ROAD – PLOT 8 REQUEST FOR REDUCTION IN RENT

A tenant on plot 8 had requested a reduction in rent due to a large tree and several bushes on his plot, resulting in part of the plot being uncultivable.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotments Officer writes to the tenant to inform him that due to the current rent already being minimal, the Members have declined his request for a reduction in rent.

All. 26 HIGH BROWNEY – PLOTS 8/9 REQUEST TO ERECT SHED, GREENHOUSE AND TEMPORARY SHELTER

A tenant from plots 8/9 had requested permission to erect:
An open-shelter, with a roof and little siding, located on SE boundary, dimensions approximately 7 x 10 feet.
A shed, located on NE side, dimensions approximately 7 x 12 feet.
A greenhouse, located on NW side, dimensions approximately 7 x 12 feet.

RESOLVED: To recommend writing a letter granting the tenant permission to erect the structures. To inform the tenant that they must build the structures with appropriate materials and keep the structures in a good state of repair. To inform the tenant that they must also remove all structures upon termination of their tenancy, unless informed otherwise.

All. 27 PEST CONTROL

a) Black Road Contract - Price Comparison

Following discussion at the October Parish Council Meeting (Min no 47.c) the Allotment Officer requested quotes from several pest control contractors to provide Black Road allotment site with a yearly pest control service.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer accepts the quote provided by Durham County Council for their yearly service, for £817.23 including VAT.

b) Contract Renewal for 2021 - Hamilton Row / Commercial Street / Empire Field / High Browney / Low Browney

The Contract for Pest Control is due for renewal in February 2021 for Hamilton Row, Commercial Street and Empire Field allotment sites. April 2021 for High Browney allotment site and May 2021 for Low Browney allotment site.

RESOLVED: To recommend renewing the Pest Control Contracts for 2021 -2022 with Durham County Council.

To recommend at a future meeting reviewing the Pest Control procedure for all allotment sites and to discuss any deterrents that could be implemented in future to alleviate the need to use a pest control contractor.

All. 28 COCKHOUSE LANE – GARAGE INSPECTION

Following a complaint received regarding the fence next to the recently erected garage at Cockhouse Lane. The Allotments Officer requested a meeting with a Committee Member to conduct a garage inspection, to investigate any issues.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer arranges to attend the site with a Ward Councillor to inspect the garage and resolve any issues arising.

All. 29 FOLDS CLOSE – PLOTS 57/86 FLOODING ISSUE

Following a complaint regarding flooding from a tenant on plots 57/86, the Allotments Officer arranged for work to be carried out by Durham Council County to relieve a blockage. Further complaints had been received by the tenant that the water problem was still occurring.

A Member informed the meeting that recently more work had been carried out in the area of flooding, which may help to alleviate the problem.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotments Officer monitors the issue and in future to discuss the possibility of installing a field drain, should the flooding continue.

All. 30 BLACK ROAD – FENCE AND PATH INSPECTION

Following the installation of a fence by the Parish Council and subsequently, the installation of a path by Tesco's. The Allotments Officer requested a site visit with a Ward Councillor, to assess/discuss any issues with the fence/path.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer arranges a site visit with a Ward Councillor to inspect the fence/path and resolve any issues arising.

AII. 31. LOW BROWNEY ALLOTMENT SITE – REQUEST FOR A SECOND SKIP

Following the provision of a skip to the Low Browney allotment site, the initial skip had been overfilled, consequently the Community Highways Worker had to remove some rubbish from the skip and left it piled on the allotment site.

RESOLVED: To recommend that the Allotment Officer arranges for the provision of a second skip, so that the remainder of the rubbish left on site can be disposed of.

The meeting closed at 10.30am

Signed *S. Nelson*.....

Date *18/12/2020*.....