

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL****ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Committee in the Council House, 44 Old Street, Clevedon, at 7.30pm on Monday, 18 May 2009.

- Present: Cllr C Wring – Committee Chairman in the Chair.  
 Cllrs C Arnold, C Hall, L Knott, J Middleton, N Pennycott  
 Ms P Heath – Town Clerk, Mrs L Phillips – Committee Clerk
- Tenants Reps: Mr D Beynon (WA), Mrs M Blackmore-HA (*Left meeting at 8.15pm*),  
 Mr P Cornock (CH), Mr C Owens-CEM, Mr K Santo (ML),  
 Mr A Stephens(CH), Mr R Thackery (VR)
- Apologies: Mr W Rowlinson (ML),

7.30pm INFORMAL BUSINESS

1. **BADGERS** Mr Gary Hanley, tenant of 151 Cemetery Site requested the Committee look to providing badger proof fencing for the site as several tenant have had crops decimated and are losing enthusiasm. Badgers are accessing the site at both ends of the wall and through the gates.  
 Mr Martin Batts, CEM146, confirmed Mr Hanley's remarks adding that money was being expended on seeds etc for no return but the rent had been doubled.  
 Mr Neil Foster, CEM158, reported that the Cemetery groundsmen has used the top, left hand corner of the Cemetery to dump waste which had formed a ramp for the badgers to access the allotment site over the wall.
  
2. **REAR WALL REPAIRS** Mr Neil Foster of the adjacent garden, CEM158, reported a recent incident which caused himself and a neighbouring tenant serious concern. A Downs Syndrome lad of about 4 years of age walking ahead of his father walked near to the edge of the bank at the top of the wall to see over and was only stopped by them persuading him to step back, his father then moved him away. Two days later a dog stood on the same spot and the bank fell away – the dog was agile enough to jump away. A wooden fence was erected last year but more of the bank has fallen allowing the access .  
 This incident proved the area was too dangerous for him to allow students access to the allotment and knowing the problems the Committee were having in getting North Somerset Council repair the and prompted him to investigate ways of expediting the work.  
 He reported that the Community Payback Service, having inspected the site, are willing to:
  - Repair the back retaining wall – starting mid June they are prepared to completely dismantle the whole length of the back wall, section by section, and build it up again, recapping to finish. Working on Tuesdays and Saturdays.
  - Front Wall. Build up and finish off wall ends at main gate including adding a down bolt to stop the closed gates from moving plus any other works needed to complete.
  - YMCA insurance will cover the works.
  
3. **GARDEN SHED.** Having put in an application for a shed on CEM158, Mr Foster wished to appeal to members for special permission for an extra large shed on his garden. He appreciates that current guidelines specify only a 6' x 4' on his 3.9 perch garden but working with a number of young people he needs to have a shed of sufficient size, 10' x 8', to offer shelter when it rains etc. The top corner of the plot is heavily shaded and would be a suitable site and not take out too much growing area.

The Chairman thanked the tenants for attending and assured them that their concerns about the problems caused by the badgers would be seriously considered. To Mr Foster she thanked him for all his efforts in providing a possible solution to the problems with the walling and his request about the shed would be seriously discussed later in the meeting.

7.55pm FORMAL BUSINESS

AL/09/36 MINUTES of the Allotments Committee meetings held on 6 April 2009 were APPROVED as a TRUE RECORD and SIGNED by the Chairman.

AL/09/37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest.

AL/09/38 WELCOME TO NEW TENANTS' REPRESENTATIVE Members welcomed Mr Craig Owens (CEM139) the new Tenants' Representative for the Cemetery Site and the Written Undertaking was signed.

<b>PART 1 ITEMS</b>		
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT REQUIRE APPROVAL BY COUNCIL		
AL09/39.2	<p><u>USE OF ALLOTMENT INCOME</u> Members were advised by the Clerk that a formal resolution was needed to enable to income from allotments rents to be used to maintain the allotments and offset expenditure. Proposed: Cllr C Hall      Seconded: Cllr L Knott <b>RESOLVED:</b> TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that 100% of allotment income is used to defer expenditure See full Minute entry below.</p>	
<b>PART 2 ITEMS – ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS</b>		
AL/09/39 39.1	<p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> was provided and attached as Appendix A. The Clerk advised members that at the next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a spread sheet of all accounts will be available,</li> <li>• plus a breakdown of costs overall and for each site,</li> <li>• and a decision will be needed as to whether the accounts follow the fiscal year or the allotment year.</li> <li>• Tenants' Reps are not allowed to vote on financial matters</li> </ul>	Noted
AL/09/40	<p><u>POET'S COURT CONIFERS</u> - AL/09/07 Concern was expressed that no work had been done on the trees and it was <b>RESOLVED:</b> To write to the Management Company giving a time limit for the work to be done.</p>	Clerk
AL/09/41	<p><u>CEMETERY WALL REPAIRS</u> - AL/09/25 Members welcomed offer from the Community Payback Service to totally repair and restore the back wall and the gate ends of the front wall of the site together with minor works to the gate, ie adding a stop bolt. All aspects of the project seemed to have been covered including insurance, total assessment and schedule for the work etc and costs in that the YMCA will facilitate the £11 per day funding and costs for all materials. <b>RESOLVED:</b> To accept the offer by the Community Payback Service and the YMCA to repair and renovate the back and front walls of the Cemetery site and thanked Mr Foster for all his efforts.</p>	

AL/09/42	<u>COLERIDGE VALE SITE - AL/09/26</u> Weston Power has replied that it is prepared to vary the route of the cables across the site at our expense. Further investigations need to be made as to their depth and if cables are not deep enough to allow gardening it was suggested that the access road to the station be made over them. <b>RESOLVED:</b> 1. To find out the depth of soil over the site and 2. How deep the cables are buried.	
AL/09/43	<u>GARDEN MEASURING PROJECT – AL/09/11</u> The last of the measurements have been received from Church Hill and a report will now be compiled.	Office
AL/09/44 44.1 44.2 44.3	<u>ANN. TENANTS' MEETING/BEST GARDEN 2009–AL/09/12</u> 44.1 JUDGING SHEETS - Members received judging sheets for the May judging. Observations on new layout to be reported at next meeting. 44.2 SPEAKER - Obtain name of speaker from the Soil Association by next meeting. 44.3 ATTENDANCE - Members to consider ways of encouraging more tenants to attend.	Cllrs Office All
AL/09/45	<u>BOUNDARY MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – AL/09/29</u> Reps reported that work had been completed satisfactorily.	Noted
AL/09/46 46.1 46.2	<u>FLOWER SHOW - 29-30 AUGUST 2009 - AL/09/30</u> 46.1 TABLE MANNING ROTA - Five members volunteered for duty and the remaining vacancies will be filled at the next meetings. 46.2 THEME - Mrs Blackmore was very willing to do the display on the 'Evolution' theme but requested reimbursement for costs incurred of no more than £20. <b>RESOLVED:</b> 1. Members approved payment of these expenses and thanked Mrs Blackmore for her willingness to help. 2. To investigate obtaining an ant farm and/or a wormery and 3. K Santo to consider if having sheep and/or chickens would be practicable this year..	Office All Ctte KS
AL/09/47	<u>BADGERS ON CEMETERY SITE</u> Members discussed the concerns expressed by tenants in Informal Business above and <b>RESOLVED:</b> 1. To write to North Somerset Council Cemetery Department to ask them to stop depositing soil and waste against the boundary wall and to remove the material that is forming the ramp ..... and giving easier access for the badgers. 2. To fix wire mesh along the bottom of the gates to deter access. 3. To investigate any new ideas for deterring badgers but to see what effect the repairing of the walls makes to their methods of access before taking action.	



AL/09/51	<u>ALLOTMENT WATCH</u> - Dave Beynon reported that a hole had been punched through the hedge on to the chicken plot – no other damage observed..	
AL/09/52	<u>SITE INFORMATION</u> - The Committee NOTED Agenda Item 15 - Tenancy Information	Noted
AL/09/53	NEXT MEETING - Monday, 6 July 2009.	
<p>APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD      CHAIRMAN.....</p> <p>Meeting finished at 9.30pm.      DATE: .....</p>		

MINUTES RATIFIED BY COUNCIL ON 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009