

BRICKHILL

PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the Allotments & Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 20th May 2020.

Present: Cllrs Holloway, Fitzpatrick, Reeve, Jarman-Webb and the Clerk.

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence:</u></p> <p>None. The Clerk had advertised the meeting on the website and the allotment gates but in future would also put it on the noticeboards.</p>	Clerk
2.	<p><u>Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda:</u></p> <p>None.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Public Open Session (10 mins):</u></p>	
4.	<p><u>To confirm minutes from meeting held on Wednesday 19th February 2020.</u></p> <p>It was resolved to sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><u>To receive a report on the management of Brickhill Allotments to include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>To note the current spend against budget:</u> This was circulated ahead of the meeting. • <u>An update on the general management of the site since the last meeting:</u> The Clerk reported that the impact of COVID 19 was initially concerning in that it was not clear whether tenants could still work their plots. She was therefore concerned that tenants would not want to keep their tenancies. In fact, allotments have remained open during the current crisis and in fact more tenants than ever are on the site working their plots. She has put up notices on the gate reminding tenants as to the rules regarding social distancing etc. The Clerk has reviewed the waiting list. She is continuously receiving enquiries about vacant plots and is adding the names to the waiting list. Interest in having an allotment is greater than it has ever been. <p>To date, there are 20 outstanding rents. There has been a request to reduce rents during the current situation but the decision has been taken not to do so as they are already very low. Ordinarily the Clerk would chase rents by now, but given the current crisis and some tenants with financial issues, she will chase the rents on the 1st July. That will give those in need more time to pay.</p> <p>Although tenants are working their plots more than ever there remains some plots (10) not well worked. The Clerk has written or e-mailed all of them. Some are amongst those who have not yet paid. Some have been isolating and others with other health problems. There now remains 5 she has still not had a response from.</p> <p>The Clerk has also sent out to the Committee information about plots given up/deposits returned. Since the beginning of April, 7 tenants have given up their plots and in the case of 2 tenants, having left the plots in good condition and having returned their keys, have had their deposits returned. 5 plots have been re-let. In the case of the one plot, it was left with a significant amount</p>	

	<p><u>Play equipment:</u> Orders have been placed to replace the galleon and an area of broken logs with two new pieces of equipment as well as replace the circular seat on the cantilever swing. The seat on the cantilever swing has now been replaced. The Clerk would prefer the works to be done once it is known when play areas are opening because she is concerned that new equipment installed now would only encourage unauthorised use. She has now received an invoice from Proludic for £15,689.78 (including VAT) for the two pieces of equipment. 6th July is the date the equipment is due to be installed. She frequently replaces signage on the equipment reminding residents that it is out of use.</p> <p><u>Tree Works behind Francis Groves:</u> She has asked for two quotes from tree surgeons and will be meeting on site if required. She will ask advice from them as to whether to seek a second opinion. She will also contact the parish council insurance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Any other matters:</u> None. 	Clerk
7.	<p><u>Date of next meeting:</u> Wednesday 18th November at 7.30pm .</p>	

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Approved by Chairman
18th November 2020