

MINUTES of an Allotment Committee Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 12th November 2012 at Crown Chambers, 7 Market Place, Melksham at 7.00 p.m.

Present: FULL COMMITTEE: Cllr. Mike Mills (Chairman); Cllrs. Alan Baines; Rolf Brindle; John Glover; Pat Nicol and Richard Wood.

274/12 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. John Glover declared an interest as an allotment tenant.

275/12 **Minutes, Allotment Committee Meeting 2nd July:** These Minutes be noted.

276/12 **Allotment Agreement – Clause 5C:** The Clerk drew the Allotment Committee's attention to Clause 5C of the current Agreement which states:

5C The tenant may not keep livestock except with the permission of the Council and then only a reasonable number of hens or rabbits, which must not cover more than one third of the allotment. No cockerels shall be kept.

It was agreed this was unsatisfactory because the word "reasonable" was subjective and open to varying interpretations. The Committee agreed the wording should be changed to reflect a specific number of livestock and the size of housing. It was also agreed that a list of rules relating to keeping livestock be drawn up by the Clerk for review at the next Allotment Committee Meeting. It was reported that two tenants still had cockerels on the Berryfield site. The Clerk reported that final letters had been sent to both tenants, requesting that the cockerels be removed by 18th November or the tenancy may be terminated.

Recommended: 1. *Clause 5C be amended to read: 5C The tenant may not keep livestock except with the Council's written permission and in accord with Council rules. The tenant should submit a written application to indicate the size and position of the livestock house and run. No more than 6 hens or rabbits may be kept at any one time and the livestock house must be no larger in area than 6ft x 4ft. No cockerels shall be kept. The livestock area overall must not cover more than one third of the allotment.*

2. *The Clerk draw up a list of rules for keeping livestock for review at the next Meeting.*

277/12 **General Fencing in of allotments:** The Clerk reported that another request had been made to fence in the allotment to keep out rabbits etc. It was noted that this came under the definition of structures and Clause 5F stipulated that written permission had to be sought from the Council prior to installing the fencing. General guidelines for chicken fencing would be included in the Council rules. Following discussion it was agreed not specify a maximum height for the general fencing of allotments at present.

278/12 **Briansfield Allotment Gate Security:** Cllr. Glover asked about security of the Allotment Gate to the car park. He reported it was being left open on a regular basis. The Clerk reported the Caretaker had now bolted on the chain and lock so that it could not be removed. It was agreed to remind each allotment holder that if he/she was the last to leave the site, the gate needed to be closed and locked.
Meeting closed 7.20 p.m.

Chairman, 10th December 2012