

**MINUTES Of a Meeting of the Melksham Without Parish Council Allotment Committee held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012 at Crown Chambers at 7.00 p.m.**

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

- 121/12 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. John Glover declared an interest as a tenant of Berryfield Allotments.
- 122/12 **Minutes Allotment Committee 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012:** These Minutes were noted.
- 123/12 Arising from Min. 361/11 **Southern Boundary of Briansfield Allotments:** The Clerk reported that the residents who lived adjacent to these allotments had contacted the Council to express concern about the noise and disturbance coming from the new allotments. He had asked if a hedge could be planted along the boundary. The Committee felt this may be an unnecessary expense. It was noted that there was already some plants and brambles etc. Cllr. Baines suggested planting behind the water-trough area.  
**Recommended:** *The Allotment Warden Terry Cole be asked to examine the boundary and report back.*
- 124/12 Arising from Min. 362/11 **Site Notice board and Emergency Information at Briansfield:** It was noted that installation of the sign and notice board had been deferred due to costs. The Clerk asked if the Council wished to re-consider this matter. It was agreed that these items were unnecessary. Cllr. Glover reported that there may be a spare sign at the Berryfield Allotment site. He agreed to have a look at report back.  
**Recommended:** *No notice board or sign with the Council's contact details be provided.*
- 125/12 Arising from Min. 367/11(ii) **Rats at Berryfield:** Cllr Glover reported that there had been improvements although 15B was still overgrown with stinging nettles, and open feeders were being used. Another allotment near him was also very overgrown. The Assistant Parish Officer, Margaret Mylchreest reported that the plot near him had been recently let.  
**Recommended:** *The Allotment Warden be asked to check the site again and if 15B was still overgrown and had open feeders, the tenant be instructed to remove the nettles and change the feeders to the closed type. The tenant with the overgrown plot be cautioned that unless his plot was tended, he would have to relinquish it.*
- 126/12 Arising from Min. 267/11 **Cockerels at Berryfield Allotments:** Cllr. Glover reported that there were still some cockerels. There was discussion as to whether earlier Agreement Forms indicated a ban on cockerels. It was noted that all tenants had been sent a copy of the revised Agreement Form with the amended rules.  
**Recommended:** *A letter be sent to all tenants still keeping cockerels to emphasise that cockerels could not be kept on the Allotments and should be removed.*
- 127/12 **Plot 14, Briansfield – request for shed and greenhouse:** A request was received from the tenant to erect a shed 6ft x 4ft and a greenhouse 6ft x 4ft, side by side. Cllr. Wood emphasised that the new Agreement wording for (f) did not make clear how many structures could be erected. Was the Council permitting greenhouses 6ft x 4ft as well as a shed 6ft x 4ft on the same site? It was noted that all tenants had to

seek permission from the Council for any structures that were erected. The Committee agreed that, as the proposed greenhouse was made of plastic and was removable it should be permitted alongside the shed.

**Recommended:** *The tenant be given permission to erect both the shed and the greenhouse.*

- 128/12 Arising from 368/11 **Best Allotment Competition: Recommended:** *An Allotment Competition be deferred until 2013 to give tenants at Briansfield more time to get their new allotments up together.*
- 129/12 **Renting policy re new allotments at Briansfield:** The Assistant Parish Officer, Margaret Mylchreest sought clarification as to whether a 2<sup>nd</sup> tenant on these allotments should be charged the full rent if the 1<sup>st</sup> tenant had given the plot up without working it at all. Cllr. Brindle proposed that all 2<sup>nd</sup> tenants be charged the full rent irrespective of whether the plot had been worked or not. Cllr. Wood proposed an amendment that the 2<sup>nd</sup> tenant be only asked to pay the full rent for 2011/12 if the new plot had been dug. It was noted that the 50% rent charged would only apply in 2011/12. Cllr Wood's amendment was accepted.  
**Recommended:** *For 2011/12 un-worked plots be let to tenants for 50% cost.*
- 130/12 **Community Orchard at Briansfield:** Cllr. Brindle reported that originally a grant application had been made to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for heritage apple trees to plant at the far end of the new allotment site. The organisation ran out of trees last Autumn but had promised some for planting this Autumn. The Committee welcomed this report.
- 131/12 **Tree-planting, Bowerhill:** The Chairman suggested that additional trees be planted on the Bowerhill Jubilee Field on the Cereal Partners side. BRAG had already applied for new trees under the Scheme for the Jubilee and could have more trees than they needed as a result. It was agreed to draw up a planting scheme for the Sports Field.  
**Recommended:** *A tree-planting scheme be drawn up for the Bowerhill Sports Field.*
- 132/12 **Hornbeam Trees behind Bowerhill School:** Cllr. Brindle reported that all 15 of the Hornbeam trees planted in the open space behind the school had disappeared. He suspected that they had been removed by the Grass-cutting contractor.  
**Recommended:** *The Contractor English Landscapes be asked to replace the trees.*
- 133/12 **Eco-Kids North Wilts Ltd – request for allotment at Briansfield:** Letter received from Mrs Ann-Marie Escott to ask the Council if they would rent an allotment at Briansfield to the children at Berryfield and other villages for use as a teaching tool to encourage young people to produce their own food and learn basic gardening skills. It was agreed that as all the plots were let and allotments in principle were to help families grow their own food, Mrs Escott be advised to contact the local schools to see if a children's allotment could be made available. It was noted that Teresa may be able to help in her role as Secretary of the Melksham Gardeners' Society. **Recommended:** *The Council reply to advise Mrs Escott to approach the local primary schools and contact the Melksham Gardeners' Society for advice.*

Meeting closed at 8.00 p.m.

Chairman, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012