

**MINUTES of the Allotment Committee Meeting of Melksham Without Parish Council held on Monday 10th June 2013 at 7.00p.m. at Crown Chambers, Melksham.**

**Present:** Cllr Richard Wood (Chairman); Cllrs John Glover, Rolf Brindle, Steve Petty & Pat Nicol

**Apologies:** Cllr Adam Nardell

- 56/13 **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Glover declared an interest as an allotment tenant.
- 57/13 **Minutes, Allotment Committee Meeting 12<sup>th</sup> November:** These minutes were noted.
- 58/13 **Allotment Policy Decisions:**
- a) **Applications for additional allotments:** The Clerk reported that applications had been received from tenants requesting an additional allotment, and also from spouse's of allotment tenants. At present there were 8 allotment vacancies and an article had recently been placed in the Melksham News advertising the vacancies. **Recommended:** *Add to Allotment Policy "No household to have allotments totaling more than 10 perches".*
  - b) **Applications for moving from one plot/site to another:** The Clerk reported that a Non Resident allotment holder had requested to transfer his Berryfield allotment plot to a specific Briansfield plot. **Recommended:** *Add to Allotment Policy "Tenants are not permitted to transfer to another Plot"*
  - c) **Clarification of ruling re: "living and working in the Parish":** The Clerk reported that applications had been received from non residents of the Parish who worked part time in the Parish or whose children attended school in the Parish. **Recommended:** *Amend rule to read: "Applicants must either be living or working (more than 16 hours per week) in the Parish"*
  - d) **Clarification re: landowners in parish who let to tenants:**  
**Recommended:** *Landowners do not fall under the category of living or working in the Parish and so are not eligible for an allotment.*
  - e) **Letting to non residents (that neither live nor work in the Parish):** The Clerk sought clarification as to when vacancies could be let to non residents. It was agreed that it was better for plots to be let and worked on and paid for; rather than to let them lie fallow. The policy decisions made above covered pending applications and would bring the current vacancies down to 5. It was noted that a healthy turnover of allotment plots was to be expected and only when vacancies had not been re-allocated for some months were they to be considered vacant plots in terms of reviewing the non-resident ruling. **Recommended:** *The Clerk to bring the allotment vacancy list to the*

*attention of the Allotment Committee for review when it reaches 10 vacancies that have been on the list for at least 4 months.*

- 59/13 **Bags of Soil Conditioner Compost – Best Kept Village Competition:** The Clerk was pleased to report that the Parish Council were to receive 10 bags of compost donated by Hills, for each Best Kept Village Competition entry; this gave a total of 50 bags. The Committee discussed the best use of the compost. ***Recommendation:*** *The Council contact Hills to request an additional 10 bags of Compost and all 60 bags to be given to the Berryfield and Briansfield individual Allotment tenants.*
- 60/13 **Request for communal storage area;** The Committee noted an email from Cllr Mills to say that a tenant was interested in having a kitchen storage unit where allotment holders could leave surplus seeds, plants or produce for sharing and swapping with other tenants.

There were no objections in principle at this stage but it was felt that this could be organised between allotment holders themselves. Cllr Glover suggested that an Allotment Association could be set up.

*Meeting closed 7.41 p.m.*

*Chairman, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013*