

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 19th November 2018

Present: Councillor T Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors St. J Greenhough, Mrs. L Willis, K McKay, Mrs. J Cartmell and one representative from Freckleton in Bloom committee.

Also present were Councillors T Fiddler, L Rigby, Mrs. M Whitehead and P Walton (arrived late).

Councillors T Fiddler, T Threlfall and L Rigby left at 6:30pm to attend a FBC meeting and were not present for the conclusion of item 3 – the gate in the hedge on Bush lane allotments.

1) Apologies:

Councillors Mrs P Holt (other business)

It was resolved to accept the reasons for absence.

2) To record Declaration of interest from members in any item to be discussed.

All Councillors, as Landlords, declared an interest in item 3 - The Bush lane allotments gate and item 5. – The bushes at the Rawstorne Centre.

Councillor Mrs. L Willis declared a prejudicial interest in Item 3.

Due to the confidential nature of the information to be discussed in Item 3 – The Bush lane allotment gate, it was resolved to exclude the public from this section of the meeting.

3) To review the gate on the allotment lane on the Bush lane allotments.

Councillor L Willis left the room.

There was a detailed discussion on how long the gate had been installed in the hedge and why it had recently been locked.

It was resolved that the gate should remain in the hedge and only people who have a reason to have access to it should be allowed to use it.

These are John Gregson, Mr. & Mrs. Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Crowe, and Austin Haselden.

Councillor Willis was in the room for the remainder of the items to be discussed.

4) To review the report of the judges of the Lancashire Best village Competition.

The Chairman reported that the Freckleton in Bloom Committee had received a gold award in the North West in Bloom competition and showed the meeting the Certificate that had been received.

Concern was raised at the remarks that had been made by the judges in the Lancashire Best Kept Village competition. Most of the criticism was relating to areas that were not in the ten sections that had been submitted to be judged.

It was agreed that the judges' report should be displayed on the web-site and notice board so that the residents of the Village are made aware of the comments that have been made.

It was resolved to write to the judges to raise our concerns of the comments that have been made and to ask for a meeting with the head judge so that these issues can be resolve before next year's judging.

5) To consider what action to take regarding the removal of bushes in the borders outside the Rawstorne Centre.

There was a lengthy discussion on why the bushes had been removed after the initial meeting with the representatives from the Centre, when a location had been agreed for the Christmas tree to be sited that would not involve the removal of any of the bushes.

Overall it was agreed that the redesign of the two borders on the northern side of the Centre was an improvement.

It was resolved that the Management committee could take over the responsibility for redesigning and maintaining the Open Spaces areas around the Centre. This includes the new features in the two borders on the eastern side of the building, the bushes in the borders on the northern side of the building, and shrubs in and around the patio area on the western side of the building.

In addition, it was restated that any Open Spaces maintenance work, that is identified as requiring attention and is the responsibility of the Parish Council (e.g. shrubs on the western end of the Sports field), should be reported to the Council using the Maintenance report system set up to report these problems.

Signed.....Mrs. M Whitehead, Chairman.....

Date.....03/12/18.....