

## Freckleton Parish Council

### Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2005

#### Present:

Councillor T. Threlfall (Chair)

Councillors Mrs S Delany, Mrs. M. Dowling, Mrs. J. Maguire, Mrs. E Willis, and C Robb.

**Apologies:** Councillor T Fiddler.

#### 1) Allotments

##### a) **Croft Butts lane – re-allocation of Plot 3b.**

The Clerk confirmed that this plot has now been let to Mr. E McGuffie, 10 Ribble Ave, Freckleton.

##### b) **Croft Butts lane – repair to fence.**

The Chairman reported that the wooden fence, on the south side of the allotments was in need of repair. The Clerk agreed to obtain a quote for a new fence.

##### c) **Bush lane – Use of allotment 2a**

The Chairman reported that the Council had previously agreed not to let this plot because of the danger of injury to individuals when they were recovering balls. It was noted that a stile was in place for access to this plot.

The Clerk agreed to check with the Insurers to see if the Council was covered for public liability, if a claim was made by an individual for injury whilst attempting to recover balls from this allotment.

It was felt that the plot could be let on the basis that the land may be recovered at short notice if the Council required it for building purposes. It was suggested that the tenancy agreement should include this arrangement.

In addition, it was suggested that a notice could be erected, adjacent to the stile, indicating that the Council would not be responsible for any injuries caused as a result of retrieving balls.

It was agreed to defer a decision until the issue with Public liability was resolved.

##### d) **Bush lane – Access for cricketers.**

The clerk reported that it had been brought to his attention that the access had been blocked off, for cricketers to retrieve their balls, from some of the allotments. Concern was expressed that if these stiles were re-opened it would allow easy access for vandals.

It was suggested that a portable ladder type stile should be made available for the cricketers to go over the fence. The clerk agreed to review the situation and report back.

#### 2) **Christmas tree – health & safety Procedures**

The Clerk reported that he had requested guidance from Fylde borough Council on the health and safety procedures for all aspects of Open Spaces work, including the erection and taking down of the Christmas tree and lights. To date no response had been received. The Clerk agreed to progress and ensure procedures were in place before the tree was erected.

It was agreed that two new sets of lights should be purchased, one set of coloured lights for the Christmas tree and another set of white lights to extend the lights in the trees around the Cenotaph.

It was suggested that the Clerk should place notices around the village indicating when the Tree lighting service will take place.

**3) Open Spaces Supervisor – Christmas bonus.**

The Clerk reported that in April 2005, The Open Spaces supervisor was offered a £10 per week attendance payment for each full week he worked. (Similar to the arrangements for FBC staff). It was agreed that he Glyn should be paid this bonus, with his December wages, for the 23 weeks he will work upto the end of December 2005.

**4) Other items**

a) Balderstone Road – new borders

The Chairman requested that the Clerk write to the Contractor, Ted Threlfall, to request that the work be completed as soon as possible.

b) Additional Store area

The Chairman reported that the Freckleton in Bloom committee were prepared to make a financial contribution of £2,000, as they wished to store some of their displays in it during the winter months.

He stressed that it was important that this work be completed, as soon as it has been ratified by the full Council, as there was a shortage of storage space in the existing building.

**There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.**

**Signed.....Trevor Fiddler.....**

**Date.....12/12/05.....**