

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2006

Present:

Councillor T. Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors Mrs. M. Dowling, Mrs S Delany, Mrs. E Willis, Mrs. M Whitehead and St J Greenhough.

Apologies: Councillors T Fiddler, C Robb and Mrs. J Maguire

1) Declaration of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2) To Review the requirements for the Balderstone Road play area.

The Clerk reported that he had sought legal advice, from FBC and they advised that if we wished to change the use of this piece of land it would have to be approved by the Planning department. If we wished to restrict the use, by either age or time limit this would have to be progressed as a byelaw. Also, that any byelaw that affected a child under the age of 11 years old would be difficult to enforce.

The Clerk also reported that FBC had suggested that a laurel hedgerow, adjacent to the properties on Lodge close, would be more appropriate for screening the fences and the back gardens.

He then read out an email from Phil Gates suggesting that the Pyracantha hedge should be moved to the area at the entrance to Balderstone road, adjacent to the wall on the west side of the Open spaces area. Freckleton in Bloom may be able to contribute to the cost of these plants and the money could be used to purchase the new hedgerow.

It was agreed that the Pyracantha hedge should not be re-planted as they were too dangerous.

The Chairman suggested that he and the Clerk should meet with Brackenwood nurseries to see if they would exchange the Pyracantha plants for Laurels. In addition, it was agreed that a rail fence should be erected in front of the plants for protection.

It was agreed that the resident's views should be sought to see how this piece of land should be used in the future. The Clerk agreed to compile a consensus form and it would be delivered by hand to all the residents in this area, with four options:-

1. Retain it as a play area.
2. Retain it as a play area, with restriction of use. (i.e. No ball games)
3. Retain it as a play area with timing restrictions (i.e. Not to be used after 9:00pm and before 8:00am)
4. Convert to an Open Spaces area.

3) To review the Annual playground Inspection report.

The Clerk informed the meeting that at the last Parish Liaison meeting it was agreed that FBC would take over the maintenance of the playground equipment with effect from 1st September 2006.

He gave a summary of the faults that had been identified in the Annual inspection. It was agreed that no action should be taken as FBC would be taking over the maintenance of the equipment.

4) Allotments – Bush lane

The Clerk reported that two allotments were being used by someone other than the original tenants. This was contravening the Tenancy agreement. There were exceptional circumstances for one, but the other was a straightforward sub-let. It was agreed that this should not be allowed, as there were a number of people on the waiting list. The Chairman and the Clerk agreed to meet with Peter Rawstrone, the Chairman of the

Allotment Association, to discuss these issues before any action is taken.

5) Allotments – Croft Butts lane

The Clerk reported that there were two allotments that were not being used. One tenant had been sent two letters last year, requesting that he use the allotment. The only action taken was to part erect 2 greenhouses. No crops had been grown. It was agreed that he should be given one months notice to terminate the agreement.

The other tenant had recently died but there has been no contact from the family. It was agreed that the Chairman should speak to the family before any action is taken.

6) Correspondence.

The Clerk reported that he had received a request to remove the roots of a sliver birch tree that had recently been chopped down in, the Balderstone Road area. It was agreed that this should be progressed by the Garlick brothers.

7) Land Adjacent to 2 Bunker St.

The Chairman reported that he was disappointed that he not received any suggestions, from the residents in this area, as to what should be done with this piece of land. It was agreed that initially the land should be turfed to the boundary line and a stoned area created for the planters to sit on. In addition, the grit box should be moved next to the sub-station. The Clerk agreed to ask the Garlick brothers to progress.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....Cllr. T Threlfall.....

Date.....05/09/06.....