

## **Freckleton Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Present:** Councillor T. Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors St J Greenhough, Mrs. M Whitehead, P Quinn, C Robb, Mrs. L Willis and five representatives from the Croft Butts Allotment Holders Association.

**1. To accept Apologies for absence**

None

**2. Public participation**

There was no public participation.

**3. To record Declaration of interest from members in any item to be discussed.**

There were no declarations of interests.

**4. To read and approve the minutes of The Open Spaces meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

It was resolved that the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009, previously circulated, be approved.

**5. To hold informal discussions with the Croft Butts lane allotment holders association.**

The following points were raised:-

a) Regular site inspection visits

It was pointed out that the grass has not been cut for 6 months and some pathways were in need of repair after the new water supply had been laid.

It was agreed that a site visit would be arranged with the allotment holders present.

b) Tidying up the areas around the plots

Enquiries were made as to who was responsible for cutting the interior of the perimeter hedges, the small pathways and cutting back the overgrown trees.

It was stated that the Council were responsible for cutting the grass on the main pathway and keeping the hedge clear on the western side of the allotments. If the allotment holders wanted extra work to be done, the cost may have to be reflected in the annual rent.

c) Re-letting of unused plots

It was reported that two plots were not being used.

It was agreed that the tenants would be contact and if there was no valid reason for not working the plots they would be re-let.

Enquiries were made if the Council would consider letting half plots. It was agreed that this was acceptable and the allotment holders should contact the Clerk with the names of any plot holder that is willing to share their plot.

d) Change the start date of the letting agreements from April to October.

It was suggested that, if the start date of the agreement was changed to October, new tenants would have all the winter to get the plot up to standard before the start of the growing season. It was agreed that the Council would consider.

e) Notice on gate with contact details.

It was reported that a small amount of thefts had been experienced on the allotments. When strangers were challenged, the response was that they were looking for contact details to enquire about letting a plot.

It was agreed that a Notice should be placed on the main entrance gate.

f) Supply of manure

Enquiries were made as to whether the Council could assist with the supply of free manure. It was suggested that the plot holders should contact SITA. The chairman

stated that he had manure available for collection and he would make enquiries to see if there were other contacts in the village.

g) **Review Judging procedure**

It was requested that the judging should take place in April and again in Mid-July.

It was agreed that this request would be considered.

**6. To consider a request from the cricket section regarding removing some trees and further pruning the hedge on the Bush lane playing fields.**

It was agreed that further information was required regarding the positioning of the new nets, the CCTV cameras and the supply of water and electricity. In particular, would there be sufficient space for the dog walkers to walk by the side of the new nets and the perimeter hedge. In addition, further information was required as to why the trees and the hedgerow require removing/cutting back.

The Clerk agreed to write to the cricket section and request a meeting.

**7. To consider both revenue and capital expenditure proposals for the 2010/11 budget**

It was resolved that an overall 2% increase in the Open Spaces budget should be recommended.

In addition, it was resolved that the Club day budget should be increased to £2,000 to reflect the extra expenditure that had been agreed.

It was resolved that the cricket and football section should be requested to submit a projected budget of their expenditure, so that a tighter control may be introduced.

**8. To consider the site for a new bench in memory of Denis Proctor and a trough in memory of Mark Hunter.**

It was resolved that the bench, in memory of Denis Proctor, should be sited on the east side of the entrance to Balderstone road.

In addition, It was resolved that the trough, in memory of Mark Hunter, should be sited on the north side of the Cenotaph railings.

The Chairman agreed to progress the purchase of both items.

**9. To review the Memorial park play area's annual inspection report.**

The Clerk reported that all the items in the report were of a low priority.

It was resolved hat the report should be accepted.

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

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

**Date.....2<sup>nd</sup> November 2009.....**