

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on Monday 18th October 2010

Present: Councillor T. Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors St J Greenhough, C Robb, P Quinn and Mrs. L Willis

Ian Cooper, representing the Croft Butts Allotment Holders Association.

1) To accept Apologies for absence

Councillors T Fiddler (another meeting), Mrs. M Dowling (sick) and Mrs. M Whitehead (holiday)

It was resolved that the reasons for absence should be accepted.

2) Public participation

There was no public participation.

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

All members present, as trustees, declared an interest in all items relating to the Bush lane Sports field and Croft Butts lane allotments.

4) To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20th September 2010

It was resolved that the minutes of the meeting, previously circulated, be approved and signed by the Chairman.

5) To consider a response to the Croft Butts lane allotment holders association's email.

The following points were discussed:-

a. The document relating to the Parish Council's powers for the use of the allotment land.

The Clerk gave Ian Cooper an extract of the Indenture, relating to the use of this land and explained that the original was with the Council's solicitor. The Clerk held a copy of the document, as did the Charities Commission. The Clerk agreed to let Ian Cooper have a copy of the Indenture.

There followed a discussion about the use of allotments by non-residents of Freckleton. It was agreed that no action should be taken at this stage.

b. Formal agreement for the maintenance of the site

The Clerk reported that it was a condition of the grass-cutting contract that the main path should be cut each month between April and September. No other formal contracts existed but the Council arranges for the exterior hedge and the first part of the adjoining hedge to be cut each year.

c. Letting of Half plots

It was pointed out that there are currently in excess of 30 people on the waiting list and the Council had tried to reduce this list by initially offering half plots to new tenants.

It was agreed that this would not be extended to more than the existing number on site.

d. Site inspection without prior consultation.

It was reported that the visit on 20/09/10 was not a site visit, but to check on the half plot where a new tenant had been accosted by an existing tenant when he went to check the plot before agreeing to take it over. The members took the opportunity to see if there were any other plots that were not being used, so that the tenants could be contacted to see if were still wanting to use the plot. The Clerk reported that this exercise resulted in one and half plots being released.

e. New security gate

The allotment holders asked for a new gate to be installed, higher and more secure than the existing one, to prevent theft and vandalism.

It was agreed that the allotment holders would send a specification of their requirements to the Clerk, but it was stressed it would have to be referred to the full Council for the costing to be approved.

f. Complaint about the tenant on 12T

It was reported that this tenant visits the site infrequently (about three times a year) and allows the grass on his plot to become overgrown. This causes a problem in indentifying the pathway, adjacent to his plot and has caused other tenants to fall, as the edge of the plot is

uneven. In addition, when the grass is cut (once a year) the grass cutting are scattered on to other users plots. The Association has approached the tenant but he is very unco-operative and does not attend any of the Association's meetings.

The Clerk pointed out that he is in breach of clause 4 of his agreement, which states "that a tenant shall not cause any nuisance or annoyance to occupier of any other allotment"

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to this tenant and make him aware that he is in breach of the agreement and if he does not improve his relationship with other tenants and make more use of the allotment he will be asked to leave.

g. Siting of greenhouse on 11b

It was reported that this tenant had erected a greenhouse adjacent to the pathway and directly opposite the water butt and this left insufficient room for access to the adjacent allotments.

The Chairman and Clerk agreed to have a look at it and decide what action should be taken.

6) To consider a request from the Cricket section for a new viewing area outside the Rawstorne centre

It was agreed to support the request for a new-flagged viewing area, to the west of the Rawstorne centre, but there was concern that this would attract anti-social behaviour from youths.

In addition, it was requested that the Cricket section should confirm what type of trees would be planted along the proposed tree line.

It was agreed to support the request for the removal of the old cricket practice nets and other structures.

7) To consider a new play area, in the Memorial park, for the older youths.

It was agreed that this should be deferred to a later meeting.

8) To consider both revenue and capital expenditure proposals for the 2010/11 budget

It was agreed that this should be deferred to the Finance meeting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed.....C. Robb, Chairman.....

Date.....01/11/10.....