

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on Monday 22nd March 2011

Present: Councillor T. Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors St J Greenhough, C Robb, T Fiddler and Mrs. L Willis

Representatives from the Freckleton in Bloom committee and from the Croft Butts allotment holders association.

1) To accept Apologies for absence

Councillors Mrs. M Dowling (sick) and Mrs. M Whitehead (holiday) and Lucy Evans, BAE

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 Croft Butts lane allotments and Councillor Threlfall declared an interest in the Freckleton in Bloom committee.

4) To hold informal discussions with Lucy Evans regarding a Community volunteering Project.

It was resolved that this item be deferred to the meeting in April 2011.

5) To consider a response to the Croft Butts lane allotment holders association's email regarding the increase in the annual rent.

The Clerk informed the meeting of the main reason the Council decided to increase rents was to ensure there was sufficient funds for the future improvements that the Allotment holders association had requested to be carried out. (E.g., improve security). It was emphasized that it was not to pay for the overspends in the last few years.

There followed a lengthy discussion on how the Allotment holders could assist in keeping the costs down and they indicated that they were seeking to apply for grants to help pay for improvements. The Clerk agreed to let them have a copy of the Charities accounts for the year ending 31st March 2011.

The Allotment holders indicated that they were prepared to make a gesture to undertake some of the maintenance work on the site and they would discuss this with their members at the next meeting and inform the Council of their decision.

It was resolved to refer the increase in the annual rents to the full Council for the amount of increase to be re-considered.

6) To consider what action is required for the Britain in Bloom Competition

It was reported that two of the FIB committee had attended a briefing that set out what was required when the judging takes place in August. This included:-

1. A short presentation on the history of the Village.
2. A photo call with the press
3. The route for judging to be agreed and for representatives to escort the judges around the route.
4. A visit to a school and the judges to meet the staff.
5. A portfolio of the Village to be submitted by 01/06/11.

It was agreed that the following improvements should be considered:-

- a. Street furniture should be repaired and cleaned. Consider installing new furniture.
- b. The Millennium clock should be painted.
- c. A letter should be sent to all residents along the judging route asking them to help keep the route tidy.

- d. An insert should be put in the May Newsletter explaining when and where the judging will take place and asking for volunteers.
- e. The wood fences around the New Fylde housing sheltered accommodation and on the east side of the Memorial park should be repaired/replaced.

Councillor Threlfall informed the meeting that BAE systems have agreed to sponsor a feature on the roundabout to replace the boat.

7) To consider recommendations for improvements to the Quaker wood.

The Clerk reported that the Prison Community project team had cleared the debris from the wood and it was recommended that if the Council is to take over the responsibility for maintaining this area it should consider purchasing the land from the local charity that currently owns it.

It was suggested that the gate needed repairing; a log seat should be installed and a plaque should be installed on the gate indicating the historical importance of the site.

It was resolved that the purchase of the land and the improvements to the site should be referred to Council for consideration.

8) To consider a project for the Fields in Trust's Queen Elizabeth's II Fields Challenge.

It was resolved to recommend to Council that improvements to the Memorial park play area and the installation of a new junior football pitch should be considered for submission to this Challenge.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Signed..... T Threlfall, Chairman.....

Date.....18/04/11.....