

Freckleton Parish Council

Minutes of Extra Ordinary meeting held on Monday 28th October 2013

Present: Councillor, St J Greenhough (Chair)

Councillors, Mrs. L Willis, L Rigby, Mrs M Whitehead, Mrs S Delany, P Walton, Mrs. G Cowell, Mrs. J Cartmell and Keith McKay
And 20 tenants of the Bush lane allotments

1. Apologies: Councillors, C Robb (holidays)

It was resolved that the reason for absence should be accepted

2. Declaration of Interest

All Councillors, as Trustees, declared an interest in the Bush lane allotments.

Councilors Mrs. L Willis declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 4 – “to consider what action to take regarding the existing tenants that stable/graze horses on the Bush lane allotments”.

3. To review the report from the working party on the supply of electricity to the Bush lane allotments.

For the benefit of the allotment tenants, the Clerk read out the report from the meeting of the working party, held on 02/10/13.

The following recommendations were made:-

a) The two allotments should be supplied with electric from a non-domestic meter.

The Clerk reported that one meter had already been installed and the other would be installed later in the week. The electrician would then connect the supply to the new meters.

All the other tenants confirmed that they did not have any electricity supply to their allotments.

b) In future, utilities supplies (electric and water) should not be installed without prior approval of the Council.

It was resolved that electricity supplies to the allotment should be via a separate non-domestic meter and the tenant would have to pay for the installation.

It was further resolved that all utilities supplies (electric and water) should not be installed without prior approval of the Council.

The Clerk reported that as a result of the above decisions and other anomalies the existing lease agreements would be reviewed and issued for signatures with the April '14 invoices. It was agreed that the draft of the revised agreement would be sent to the Chairman of the Allotment holders association, for the tenants to make comment, before being issued.

4. To hold discussions with all the tenants of the Bush lane allotments to consider what action to take regarding the existing tenants that stable/graze horses on the allotments

For the benefit of the allotment tenants, the Clerk read out the section of the Open Spaces meeting, held on 16/09/13, relating to the allocation and tenancy agreements for the Bush lane allotments. He stated that there were 4 tenants with horses on the plots and not 3 as previously reported.

He stated that he had been in contact with DEFRA regarding the size of land that would be required where additional grazing/feeding of horses was being undertaken. DEFRA stated that they considered horses to be **pets** not livestock and therefore would not comment on the enquiry. The Clerk stated that this re-affirmed the Open Spaces meeting decision that stabling and grazing of horses on the allotments was contrary to the wishes of William Sager Hodgson.

In addition, he stated that the definitions of Allotments and Husbandry include the words “for food” and this re-affirmed the decisions made by the Open Spaces committee.

The Chairman of the Allotment Holders Association stated that they had met and would like to make the following recommendations to Council:-

a) They would monitor the usage of the allotments with regard to the DEFRA regulations and therefore it was not necessary for the existing allotment tenants to complete the questionnaire.

It was resolved to allow the Allotment Holders Association to monitor the usage of the Allotments with regard to DEFRA regulations.

- b) They would like the existing tenants to continue to have their horses on the allotments and in future to limit the number of plots with horses etc to a maximum of five at any one time.

It was resolved that upto a maximum of 5 plots would be allowed to have horses, ponies, donkeys etc at any one time.

- c) They would like the Council to review the decision made on the removal of the donkeys from to plot 5.a in 6 months time as per the Council's Standing Orders and in the meantime for the Council not to implement this decision.

It was agreed that this decision would be reviewed after 6 months.

Signed.....ST J Greenhough, Chairman.....

Date.....06/11/13.....