

RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2010

PRESENT: Councillors A Akbar, Mrs C Broomfield, A Cooper, Mrs F Harrison and Mrs S Lines
Mrs L Collins (Administrative Officer) and F Spanton (Rustington Horticultural Association)

11/10 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed that Councillor Mrs Broomfield be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

The Committee RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Broomfield be elected Chairman for the ensuing year.

12/10 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jones (Work Commitment) and Warren (Personal Commitment). These apologies were accepted by the Committee.

An apology was also received from P Ayling (Rustington Horticultural Association).

13/10 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

There were no Declarations of Interest recorded by Members.

14/10 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 February 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

15/10 **VACANT PLOTS - CURRENT POSITION**

The Clerk reported that there were no vacant plots at the present time and that there was a waiting list for any available plots.

The Committee NOTED this information.

16/10 **2010 ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION**

The Committee AGREED that the following be prize winners in the 2010 Allotments Competition:-

Overall Winner (Una Maywood Cup)	-	Plot Number 27	-	Mr & Mrs J Donovan (Conbar Avenue)
Joint Site Winners - Penfold Lane (Eddie Leonard Cup)	-	Plot Number 18	-	Mr K Kressner
		Plot Number 21	-	Mr M Kempson
Site Winner - Conbar Avenue (Fred Lee Cup)	-	Plot Number 27	-	Mr & Mrs J Donovan
Site Winner - Worthing Road (Eric Ilett Cup)	-	Plot Number 8	-	Mr G Frostick

It was also AGREED that the Cliff Pryor Cup, be awarded to Mr Fred Spanton, in his capacity as the Rustington Horticultural Association's representative on the Committee, in recognition of his unceasing assistance and commitment to, not only the Committee, but also other Allotment holders.

It was further AGREED that Certificates of Commendation be awarded to the following:-

<u>Penfold Lane</u>	Plot 4A & 5	-	Mr B Cooper
	Plot 6	-	Mr M Marshall
	Plot 10	-	Mr B Jane
	Plot 16	-	Miss C Fry
	Plot 25A	-	Mr A Klinger
	Plot 27 & 27A	-	Mr C Collins
	Plot 30	-	Mr & Mrs A Hyatt
	Plot 41	-	Mr J Cox
	Plot 42	-	Mr N Colenutt
<u>Conbar Avenue</u>	Plot 7	-	Mr & Mrs J Donovan
	Plot 12	-	Mr P Bellamy
	Plot 23	-	Mr & Mrs M Minton
	Plot 28	-	Mr E P Sims
<u>Worthing Road</u>	Plot 12	-	Mrs G Thomas
	Plot 13	-	Mr P Ayling

The Committee then proceeded with a further inspection and RECOMMENDED the following courses of action:-

<u>Penfold Lane</u>	Plot 12	-	"Tidy up" letter to be sent
	Plot 33	-	"Tidy up" letter to be sent
<u>Conbar Avenue</u>	Plot 6	-	Second Warning letter to be sent
	Plot 16	-	"Tidy up" letter to be sent
	Plot 18	-	First Warning letter to be sent
	Plot 32	-	First Warning letter to be sent

17/10 BEEKEEPING - CONBAR AVENUE SITE

The Clerk referred to Minute 8/10 and reminded the Committee that the Council had considered a formal request received from an Allotment Tenant for Bee Hives to be kept on the Conbar Avenue Site. She said that she had contacted both the Council's Insurers and the British Beekeepers' Association in this regard, and whilst the Beekeepers' Association had provided an information leaflet on Allotment Beekeeping, the Council's Insurers had confirmed that they would not cover any liability resulting from anything in connection with Beekeeping on any of the Allotment Sites. The Council's Insurers had also suggested that prospective Beekeepers should have £5 Million Public Liability Insurance for the specific activity, and a letter to this effect should be sent to them asking for a copy of the Insurance Certificate and stating that any permission would be subject to the Council not being liable for any claims arising thereof. It was also important that the Health and Safety implications were highlighted and, in particular, that Beekeepers needed to be fully trained and that there needed to be an enclosed area for the hives, fenced off with warning signs erected.

The Clerk then reported that following consideration of this information, the Council had agreed that prior to any final decision being made in respect of this request, all Allotment Tenants on the Conbar Avenue Site should be fully consulted, but that this matter should be referred back to the Committee for further detailed consideration.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Conbar Avenue Allotment Site, located close to residential properties with a public right of way through the Site, would not provide a suitable location for Beekeeping and, therefore, no further action should be taken in this regard at the present time. The Committee was also particularly concerned about the Health and Safety implications of introducing this activity at the Site.

18/10 ALLOTMENT PLOT SHARING

The Clerk referred to Minute 9/10 and reminded the Committee of Mr Ayling’s representation made at the last Meeting, regarding the possibility of people sharing plots, or plots being split in half. She said that a letter had subsequently been received from Mr Langham, a long term allotment tenant, also suggesting that some of the five rod plots could be divided in half, which would enable tenants struggling with larger plots to manage smaller sized plots with more ease.

Following a detailed discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that no further action be taken in respect of certain plots being split in half, but AGREED that it would have no objection to tenants sharing plots with other individuals, subject to the Tenancy Agreement for the plot still remaining with the originally named tenant. This would, in effect, mean that the registered tenant would have to accept full responsibility for ensuring that the plot was cultivated in accordance with the Agreement, with the person sharing having no rights to take over the tenancy, should the tenant decide at any time to give up their plot.

19/10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the next Meeting was scheduled for 11 October 2010, but that Site Inspections would continue to be held on a monthly basis throughout the growing season.

Chairman: **Date:**