

Hurworth Parish Council

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Hurworth Allotments Sub-Committee held at Hurworth Grange, Hurworth –on-Tees, on Thursday 25th August 2009 at 6pm.

27.0/09 Present: - Cllr. G.Hepplewhite (Chairman)
Cllrs: - P.Foster
Co-opted members: - Mr. J.Buxton and Mr. G.Roche
Cllr G.Lawman in attendance

Parish Clerk Mr. J.Robinson
12 Allotment holders also present

28.0/09 Apologies: - Mr. J.Edwards Cllr V.Hughes and Cllr C.Pratt

29.0/09 Deceleration of interest: - nil

30.0/09 Election of Vice Chairman

The Clerk advised that this is traditionally an Allotment holder from the Committee. He advised that Cllr V.Hughes and Mr. J.Edwards have tendered their resignation from the Committee as of this meeting. Mr. J.Buxton also advised he wished to stand down. The Clerk had written to all Allotment holders asking for expressions of interest to join the Committee. Two have come forward Mrs. L.Wylie and Mr. T.Hall. The Committee reluctantly accepted the resignations from the three members and unanimously approved the two volunteers for membership.

Resolved: - Mrs. L.Wylie be appointed Vice Chair for the coming year and the Clerk to write to all retiring members and thank them for their contribution.

31.0/09 Minutes of March and April meetings

Resolved:- These were approved

32.0/09 Matters Arising

Members referred to the 3 allotments which in April when Committee visited the Strait Lane site that were untendered. The Clerk advised he had written to the tenant and that had started to improve the site. Unfortunately they did not continue and they are back to the same state as April. Members of the Committee who had visited Strait Lane confirmed this.

Resolved:- It was agreed to write to the tenants and advice they have till 9th October to bring them to the required standard otherwise their tenancy will be terminated.

32.0/09 Tenancy Update

All tenants have been written to and to date none have advised they wish to give up their tenancy. There was concern expressed that some tenants maybe sub-letting without the approval of the Council. It was suggested a letter advising all tenants that this is against the tenancy be sent. The waiting list was reviewed. It was noted an additional 5 people have been added to the list. Mrs. L.Barett had written to the Committee asking consideration be given to allotment sharing, members felt this was a worthwhile suggestion. Cllr G.Lawman queried the number of allotments currently being rented by individuals. The Chairman advised they had been allocated when there was no waiting list and therefore could only be re-allocated when the individual gave up their tenancy.

Resolved:-

- 1) All tenants are written to in regards to sub-letting and tenancy sharing.
- 2) All tenants be advised of the details of their relevant Committee representative
- 3) Full waiting list be circulated along with a full list of allotment holders to Committee members

33.0/09 Dog Control Orders

A detailed discussion took place in regards to the implementation of a Dog Control order.

Resolved:- Not to apply to Darlington Borough Council for an order but to advise all tenants it is their responsibility to ensure their dogs are kept under control at all times

34.0/09 Tenancy Agreement

Draft leasing agreements as suggested by NALC were tabled, to be discussed at the next meeting. It was highlighted however no fowl or other animals can be kept on the site. An application to erect a green house on an allotment was approved. It was agreed to allow tenants to keep bees on the site.

35.0/09 Issues in regards to Strait Lane

The issue of a covered notice board as opposed to the current one, installing slabs between allotments and also water to the site was discussed. Members also expressed concern at allotments exceeding their boundary and encroaching onto main thoroughfares so making it difficult for people to access the site.

Resolved:- Clerk to obtain prices for all relevant work and to write to all allotment holders advising them to reduce their allotment to the correct size and to not encroach on pathways.

36.0/09 Issues in regards to The Grange

Several episodes of theft and vandalism have occurred including immediately prior to the meeting. Members agreed to refer the matter to the PACT meeting being held that night.

Resolved:- to obtain prices for improved fencing around the Grange site.

37.0/09 Financial Statement

Resolved:- Clerk to prepare a financial statement of the current accounts for the next meeting. Councillors advised all financial decisions in regards to any major expenditure will need to the approval of the Parish Council and be added to future precept budgets, especially referring to water at Strait lane and other components of the 5 year plan. It was agreed to also review the 5 year plan at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 24th September at 7.30pm in The Grange Hurworth on Tees.