**MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Allotment Committee**

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23rdth February 2016 at Marshfield Village Hall, Wellfield Road, Marshfield, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

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 **Present;**

 Mr Mike Rigby **(Chairperson)**

 Mr Mathew Taylor **(Community Councillor)**

 Mr Joel Williams **(Community Councillor)**

 Mrs Catherine Grady **(Community Councillor)**

 Mr Geoff Stockham **(Community Councillor)**

 Mr James Rowland **(Community Councillor)**

 Mr Gary Blythe **(Joined after item 1 )**

Mr Paul Walkey **(Joined after item 1 )**

 Mr Allan Bird **(Joined after item 1 )**

 Mr Steve Bateman **(Joined after item 1 )**

**Apologies:** Ken Honey, Fiona Frascina

**In attendance**: 8 tenants from the allotments

1. **To meet persons interested in joining the committee and consider co-option to vacant positions**

The Chair reported that the Committee is looking to co-opt 5 tenants to join them. Mathew Taylor had discussed this with several tenants prior to this meeting all of whom were in attendance. Committee invited all interested parties to give a brief description of what skills and qualities they could bring to Committee. The Chair informed parties that preferably co-opted members should come from both Marshfield Road and Church Lane sites.

***Mathew Taylor proposed that Mr Gary Blythe be co-opted to the Committee. The Committee unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal.***

***Mike Rigby proposed that Mr Paul Walkey be co-opted to the Committee. The Committee unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal.***

***Mathew Taylor proposed that Mr Allan Bird be co-opted to the Committee. The Committee unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal.***

***Mathew Taylor proposed that Mr Steve Bateman be co-opted to the Committee. The Committee unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal.***

Co-opted members signed a Declaration of Acceptance and participated in the following meeting

1. **To receive the resignation of current Chairperson Mr Mike Rigby and elect a new Chairperson.**

Committee received and accepted the resignation of Mike Rigby. Mike had recently been co-opted as a Community Councillor and this has led to his decision to resign as Chair of the Allotment Committee. The Committee thanked Mike for his input and wished him well in his new role. Mr Gary Blythe declared and interest in becoming the new Chairperson.

 ***Mathew Taylor proposed that Mr Gary Blythe be elected as Chairperson of the Committee. The Committee unanimously resolved to agree to this proposal.***

1. **To consider the current fee structure for the sites**

The Chair requested that invoices be sent out at the current rate as early as possible covering from January to June 2016, as agreed by the Community Council. Members discussed the current fee structure and the amount allocated from Community Council to the Allotments. Joel Williams explained the way in which the fees are allocated and the need to ensure Council funds are spent in the most appropriate way that gives benefit to the whole community. Members felt that the current fee structure was low and were open to the idea that a small increase would be needed to support the ongoing development of the allotments.

**Mathew Taylor agreed to research the fee structure of other sites in neighbouring authorities and report back to Committee at the next meeting.**

1. **To consider rental sheds and the right for tenants to buy**

The Chair requested information regarding the price paid for sheds and the amount paid by tenants towards them so far. The chair has requested Mathew Taylor to get this information from Community Council and provide him with this before the next meeting. Before a decision can be made the financial information needs to be looked at, a discussion is needed around how this would be managed and how the handbook would need to be updated to include this provision. In making the decision the committee needs to consider, if purchased whether or not the shed will be able to be sold on if the tenant gives up the plot. The committee would also need to consider Health and Safety requirements in regard to upkeep of the sheds.

1. **Mains Water Supply**

Mathew Taylor updated Committee on the quotes received and the time frames in which the quotes will expire. The chair requested that a survey be sent out with the invoices asking tenants views on mains water being supplied. Discussions were had around other ways in which water could be collected and made available to those plots that are unable to collect their own water. Ideas for a IVC (a communal water collection facility) were discussed in detail with this being the preferred option of Committee. Committee were concerned about the ongoing costs of maintaining mains supply water butts and how this cost would be distributed among tenants in a fair way.

**The Chair is going to put a proposal for communal collection to the next Committee and Community Council for agreement.**

**Any Other Business**

**Security Church Lane**

The Chair updated the committee about the current level of security the hedge at Church lane is providing. There had been a recent break in and it is likely that they gained entry through here. The Chair informed Committee that there had already been measures put in place to try and tackle this that were obviously unsuccessful. Committee were aware that any action taken needs to give consideration to Health and Safety issues.

**The Chair will provide a report to Community Council with ideas on how we can deal with this.**

**Budget**

The Chair has requested an allocated 2016/17 budget amount for the allotments

**Mathew Taylor to request this from Community Council**

The meeting closed 08:45pm