

**Minutes of the Meeting of the
Playing Fields, Allotments and Amenities Committee
held on Thursday 28th November 2024 - 7pm at Diamond Jubilee Lodge**

Present: Cllr D. Maidstone (Chairman)
Cllr N. Barker
Cllr S. Gurney
Cllr M. Hicks

Also in Attendance:
Mrs F LeBon (Clerk) and one member of the public.

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

1. Apologies and acceptance for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr D. Fahy.

2. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

Cllr Gurney declared a personal interest in item 6, knowing both parties through various projects in the parish.

Cllr Maidstone declared a personal interest in item 6, knowing both parties through the allotments.

Cllr Barker declared a personal interest in item 6, knowing one party in the matter.

3. Approval of the Minutes from 29th October 2024

The draft Minutes had been circulated from the meeting of 29th October 2024. These were **AGREED** after a proposal from Cllr Gurney and a second from Cllr Hicks.

4. Public Participation

A member of the public queried whether all allotment rules will be looked at. Cllr Maidstone assured the member of the public that all rules relating to the incident will be taken into consideration.

The member of the public asked if witnesses to the incident have been approached. The Clerk advised that no witnesses had been contacted and that the statements received have been taken on their own merit. If the committee wishes to take that next step, they can instruct this as part of their decision making process.

The member of the public asked whether professional advice had been sought. Cllr Maidstone advised that this had not been necessary to this point.

The member of the public queried whether the committee members were qualified to make a decision. Cllr Maidstone advised that the committee is qualified to act on behalf of the Parish Council. The committee was not acting in the role of the police or judicial service.

The member of the public asked if the committee understood the Equalities Act. The Clerk responded that, should committee members discriminate against a person with a protected characteristic in their deliberations, a point of order would be called.

Cllr Maidstone clarified that the committee's decision would be in the form of a recommendation to the Parish Council, which would be ratified on 10th December at the meeting of the full council.

The Member of the Public Left the Meeting

- 5. To Consider a Resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the press and public for the duration of the item 7 in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted**

This was **AGREED**.

There were no members of the public remaining in the room

- 6. To Receive Report of Incident on 7th September and Consider Whether Further Action is Necessary**

Written statements from both parties were considered, alongside information from the police. The allotment rules were also reviewed to establish potential breaches by all parties involved.

It was **AGREED** that only the known facts should be used to come to a recommendation and personalities and previous history should not be taken into consideration.

A recommendation to full council was **AGREED** by the committee. Due to annual leave of the Clerk, Cllr Maidstone will draft the appropriate documentation and circulate to the committee for amendment / agreement. Once agreed by the committee, the Deputy Clerk will circulate to full council in time for the meeting on 10th December.

- 7. Items for the Next Agenda**

Feedback on the Budget

Open space on Phase 6 of the Persimmon development.

- 8. To Confirm Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting**

To be agreed.

MEETING CLOSED AT 8.24pm