

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE FIELDS AND ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE
OF BUCKLAND BREWER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 2021 AT 7:30pm
(MEETING HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM)

Members Present: Mr Richard Hooper, Mr Chris Kaminski and Mr Jim Lowe

Also in attendance: Joan Baguley, Sharon Evans, Richard Phillips and Hen & Lu Staveley-Brown

Parish Clerk: Mr P Blossie

KEY: Actions are shown in bold blue type Decisions are shown in bold red type

In the absence of the Chair of the Parish Council, the meeting was chaired by Jim Lowe

1. **Apologies for Absence** Kate Hudnott and Peter Iles
2. **Declarations of Interest** None
3. **Public Participation** Joan Baguley talked about the endangered hedgehog population and asked if the Parish Council could publish information about making gardens and allotments hedgehog friendly. If approved, the Clerk will **prepare an article for Village Scene and the Community Website.**
4. **Issues arising from the allotment inspection held on 10th April 2021** Richard Hooper had inspected the allotments on 10th April. He noted that the chickens kept in the end allotment were out of their runs, but this is now permissible as the DEFRA restriction has been lifted. He noted that there was some broken glass on the path beside plot 15. Plot 8 had recently changed hands, but the new tenant had not yet started work on it and it was becoming overgrown. The Clerk had been in touch with the tenant who had said that he should be starting work on it soon. It was noted that the path was being generally well maintained but that some hedges were overgrown. The Clerk was asked to **reminder plot holders that it is their responsibility to keep these cut back at the appropriate time of year. He will issue a reminder nearer the autumn.**
5. **Water Supply** Peter Iles had asked whether the Parish Council would reconsider providing a water supply. The last consultation had indicated that a small majority of those who voted either did not want one or were unwilling to pay for one. However, it was the unanimous opinion of the allotment holders present at the meeting that they would like to have access to a water supply and would be willing to pay a reasonable for it. **It was agreed that another poll should be taken.**

6. **Supplies of Black Plastic** The Clerk said that Andrew Hewitt still has a supply of black plastic if anyone needs it to help control weeds. Richard Phillips suggested that it **should be stored in a box at the allotments and that a shed or similar could also be used as a seed-swap area.**

7. **Arrangements for future inspections** It was noted that there had been some confusion about when and where to meet for the last inspection and the Clerk apologised for not having sent members a reminder. It was agreed that the meeting dates for inspections and meetings would remain unchanged. Inspections will take place at 10:00am on Saturday mornings three times a year, with sub-committee members meeting at the allotments and then moving on to inspect the fields. It was also agreed that it should not be necessary for the Clerk to issue reminders other than to note the upcoming inspections and meetings in Parish Council minutes.

The inspections and meetings arranged for the remainder of the current year are as follows:

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Sub-Committee Meetings</u>
Saturday 10 th July 2021	Thursday 22 nd July 2021
Saturday 16 th October 2021	Thursday 28 th October 2021

8. **Five-yearly review of field and allotment rents** The Clerk said that allotment and field rents were subject to a 5-yearly review, which is now overdue. **He will discuss the field rents with the Council's land agent, Hicks & Co. and make a recommendation to the Parish Council about allotment rents following consultation about a water supply.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:10 pm

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. prepare an article about making gardens and allotments hedgehog friendly
2. issue a reminder to allotment tenants about care of hedges in the autumn
3. consult with all allotment holders about a water supply
4. supply a box or small shed for storing black plastic and creating a seed-swap area
5. discuss field rent review with Hicks & Co.
6. review allotment rents following results of consultation about a water supply

Dates of Future Meetings:

Annual Parish Meeting, Wednesday 12th May 2021 (Buckland Brewer Methodist Chapel, 7:00pm)

Parish Council, Wednesday 12th May 2021 (Buckland Brewer Methodist Chapel, 7:30pm, or immediately following the Annual Parish Meeting)

Signed as a true record:

Chairman: **Date:**