

ROOKSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ONLINE ON 2 NOVEMBER 2020 at 1930

	In Attendance	Apologies	Absent
Clr Scott Mason (Chairman)	✓		
Clr Dan Harris		✓	
Clr Paul Lovett	✓		
Clr Paul Mahoney	✓		

Clerk:

Martin Whittaker

In attendance:

2 members of the public

Action

- 20/24 **To receive and accept apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Clr Harris (work commitments).
- 20/25 **Appointment of Chairman**
The motion being proposed by Clr Mason, seconded Clr Lovett, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to elect Clr Mason as Chairman of the committee.
- 20/26 **To receive and note any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and requests for dispensation for items to be discussed**
None.
- 20/27 **To approve minutes of 25 August and 12 October (see attached)**
The motion being proposed by Clr Mason, seconded Clr Mahoney, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes of 25 August.
The motion being proposed by Clr Mason, seconded Clr Mahoney, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the minutes of 12 October.
- 20/28 **To discuss matters arising from the minutes**
All complete except:
20/17 – Clr Mahoney asked the Clerk to check and report on the exact numbers of responses to the August/September bee consultation and from which source they had been received. **Clerk**
20/10 – Advice on plot watering – Mahoney – not yet done. **Mahoney**
- 20/29 **To invite members of the public to address the meeting (up to 15 minutes in total)**
None.
- 20/30 **To receive update on plot cultivation**
The Clerk reported:
 - Plot 1 was in the process of being divided into 4
 - Plots 8b and 15a were now available to rent
 - One plot was due for inspection to check the degree of cultivation. The Chairman and Clerk would be inspecting the plot later in the week**Mason/
Clerk**

- It had become apparent that one tenant may have left the parish without informing the council, and was therefore required to give up the plot. The Clerk was looking into this.

20/31 **To consider revisions to allotment rules (see attached)**

The motion being proposed by Cllr Lovett, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve version 2.1 of the Allotment Rules.

20/32 **To consider the keeping of bees on allotment plots**

1. Feedback from consultation

The Clerk reported that, of the 13 replies received, 2 were against beekeeping. However, one of those against had since withdrawn their objection.

As the survey explicitly stated that the lack of a response would be regarded as being in favour, and there were 22 plots currently tenanted, this gives a result of:

For the keeping of bees: 21

Against: 1.

Members noted the objection and agreed that it would be considered in relation to specific applications to keep bees.

2. Decision on whether beekeeping should be allowed

The motion being proposed by Cllr Mahoney, seconded Cllr Mason, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve in principle the keeping of bees on the Sherborne Fields allotment site, noting that if an application were received the consultation process given in Rules for Beekeeping on Council Allotments v1 would be undertaken.

3. Approval of Rules (see attached)

The motion being proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Lovett, **IT WAS RESOLVED** unanimously to approve version 1 of Rules for Beekeeping on Council Allotments.

20/33 **Chairman's and Clerk's correspondence**

The clerk reported that he had received an email from a tenant concerning the formation of an Allotments Association, indicating that "several plot holders are disgruntled" with the way the allotments had been managed in some cases, and that the first meeting of the proposed Allotments Association would not involve RPC.

Members expressed disappointment not to be involved with the association but recognised tenants' rights to meet without RPCs being represented, and understood the reasons. However, members expressed the wish to contribute to the association in the future, bearing mind that neither RPC nor the tenants yet had much experience of allotment management.

20/34 **Chairman to close meeting**

The meeting was closed at 20.15.