

HUGHENDEN PARISH COUNCIL
ALLOTMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2015

At the Council Offices commencing at 8.00 pm

UNCONFIRMED

Present:	
<p>Cllr. Dennis Hackling (Hughenden Parish Council, Chairman of Meeting) Brian Broadbelt (Louches Lane Allotment) John Capell (Red Lion Allotment) Paul Cawte (Whitfield Road Allotment) Mike Cooke (Windmill Lane) Bill Humphrey (Cryers Hill Allotment) Neil McMinn (Walters Ash Allotment) Ian Williams (Primrose Hill) Cllr. Brian Swain (Hughenden Parish Council) Jill Armshaw (Hughenden Parish Council, Deputy Clerk) The meeting started at 8.00 pm</p>	
1	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from Mark Booth (Louches Lane Allotment).</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting The minutes of the meeting held on 27th May 2015 were approved as an accurate record.</p>
3	<p>Matters arising Cllr. Swain enquired about water pipe leakage at Red Lion Allotment. The Deputy Clerk had no information on this matter.</p>
4	<p>Committee membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Deputy Clerk reported that Liz Tack had resigned as representative for North Dean Allotments. b) Representatives were asked to encourage tenants to take up vacant positions on the committee. c) The Deputy Clerk apologised for omitting Mike Cooke from the list of Allotment Liaison Committee members sent out with allotment renewal notices.
5	<p>Allotment tenancy renewal The Deputy Clerk reported that renewal letters were sent on 14th September 2015 to 179 tenants and a further 19 tenants were served notice due to their plot remaining uncultivated for most of the year. Of the 179 tenants invited to renew, 147 work 1 plot, 27 work 2 plots, 4 work 3 plots and 1 tenant works 4 plots. 20 plots are vacant. Members agreed that given current occupancy rates there is no problem with a small number of tenants working more than 1 plot.</p>
6	<p>Electric cables (Walter's Ash) It was agreed that additional electric cable warning signs be erected at Walter's Ash Allotment and a sign placed on the entrance gate. Cllr. Swain stated that HPC would be conducted a further risk assessment at the site.</p>
7	<p>Removal of stones & flints (Primrose Hill) The Deputy Clerk reported that Council had previously agreed to a one off removal of stones and flints from Primrose Hill Allotment. On inspection, it would be difficult for a grab lorry to gain access to the site. An alternative solution is for a contractor to either bury the stones on site or spread the stones near the vehicle access gate to reduce mud during wet weather.</p>

8	Allotment competition feedback Members reported discontent that this year 2 nd and 3 rd places were not awarded at individual allotment sites. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk post notices in early April stating competition categories and reinstating 1 st , 2 nd & 3 rd at all allotment sites. A discussion followed as to whether winners might be competition judges the following year. It was agreed that members consider options and that the item be considered again at the next meeting.
9	Consultation on revised Allotment Agreement & Regulations Members discussed and reviewed the existing Allotment Agreement & Regulations together with the amendments suggested by the Clerk. The Deputy Clerk noted all comments and the agreed revised draft documents will now be considered by the AFLP and Council for resolution.
10	Improving communications It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk write an article for inclusion in the spring 2016 issues of parish magazines. Cllrs. Hackling & Swain stated that the Allotment Liaison Committee is valued by Council. They offered the option of chairing future meetings to any willing member and informed members that Trustees of AFLP may be invited to future meetings.
11	Any other business a) Paul Cawte reported that Hughenden Valley Allotment held a successful BBQ attended by more than 40 people on August bank holiday Monday. The event was a great success and will be repeated. b) The Deputy Clerk asked members for their views regarding a recently constructed greenhouse measuring 12 m x 10 m which contravenes proposed regulations. After discussion it was agreed that since the greenhouse was erected prior to the revised regulations coming into effect, the greenhouse as with the polytunnels at Red Lion, should be permitted to remain. c) Brian Broadbent informed members that Princes Risborough Town Council is investigating whether to create an allotment garden. Brian asked whether people living outside the parish might be offered vacant plots. The Deputy Clerk reported that people living outside parish are allotment tenants within Hughenden Parish. It was agreed that parishioners should always be given priority but others are welcome to enquire about becoming allotment tenants. d) Cllr. Hackling gave an update concerning negotiations with the AFLP. A representation has been received by the Charities Commission which may result in a delay in resolution by some months. Cllrs. Hackling and Swain assured members that Council were doing everything in within their power to resolve the issue. e) Paul Cawte reported instances of pilfering at Hughenden Valley Allotment citing a coordinated raiding on gooseberry plants. f) Paul Cawte described the important role of pollinators in allotment gardening and distributed information from the RHS concerning invertebrate habitat stacks. Members discussed the value of planting wild flowers and herbs on allotments to attract pollinators. Members agreed that one vacant plot per allotment site might be given over to becoming a communal pollinator plot. The Deputy Clerk agreed to bring this suggestion to Council. g) The Deputy Clerk reported that Frank Parge, Head Gardener at Hughenden Manor (NT) had offered to give a talk on allotment gardening to plot holders. Members agreed that this proposal be brought to Council for consideration.
12.	Next meeting The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 13 th January 2016 at 8.00 pm.
	The meeting closed at 10.20 pm

Signed by the Chairman:

Date: