

Allotments, Open Spaces and Rights of Way Committee

3 September, 2019

Present: Councillor Turner (In the chair);
Councillors Evans, Parker and W Thomas
Mr M Steer

Also: P Davies, Clerk to the Council and 1 member of the public

Apology: Councillor M Thomas

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

2. Allotment Matters

(a) Bridgend Road site

(i) Water – The Clerk reported that a number of elderly and disabled tenants who had plots close to Bridgend Road were having difficulties accessing the existing water supply and they had asked whether they could purchase a water trough and connect to the Council's water supply.

Members were also reminded that previous requests for additional supply points had been refused but as this request was to introduce a cattle water trough there would be no water wastage

Recommended – That the request be approved subject to the tenants meeting the total costs

(ii) Burning on the site – Members were advised that a complaint had been received from a local resident. The complainant had been asked to contact the Council when there was a future incident to enable a visit to be made to the site to identify the tenant(s) responsible

(b) Jubilee Street site

(i) Site Access – Members were advised that there were ongoing problems of unauthorised access to the site and one of the tenants had requested that the Committee be made aware of this, It appeared that people using the Black Path believed that the allotment site provided a short-cut to adjoining areas, also there was an increase in dog mess and there had been one incident where a visitor had suggested that he would put a substance in the water trough to prevent the algae.

Problems were caused by the gate being left open and despite the provision of different types of locks and a letter to tenants asking them to regularly close the gate, the position continues

Recommended – That the Clerk be requested to place a notice on the entrance gate indicating that this was a private site and there was ‘no through road’

(ii) Lane at the rear – The Clerk reported that a gate had recently been erected in the lane preventing full access to two of the allotment plots. The current land ownership was being identified

Recommended - That the Clerk be requested to ascertain whether the title deeds to the land provided a right of access to the Council

3. Open Spaces matters

(a) Memorial Gardens Site – Councillor W Thomas reported that with the Chairman of the Committee, they had met representatives of Pencoed College on . The College had suggested that the possible development of the site as a quiet leisure area be allocated as a project to their second-year students.

Preliminary arrangements had been made to meet the ten students involved at the end of September to allow for Members to discuss the project and their aspirations for the site

In the meantime, the College had suggested that (a) the weed growth on the site be eradicated, (b) exploratory work be undertaken concerning the hardcore and other material on the site. Members also indicated that it was important to identify that utilities on the site – Councillor Turner advised that he would obtain this information from RCT

Recommended – That the Clerk arrange for the site to be cleared of weeds

(b) Land fronting the Bridgend Road Allotments – The Clerk reported that details of the contractor’s final proposals had been provided to the Chair of the Committee but she has expressed concern regarding the possible loss of the bulbs previously planted.

Recommended – That if additional bulbs be purchased and the contractor be asked to finalise the works as quickly as possible

(c) Meadow Rise Sites – Members were advised that following staff absences and mower and tractor break downs, regrettably, it had been impossible to undertake any work at these two vacant sites. The work had been added to the Handymen’s jobs list but it would be some weeks before any progress could be made.

Discussions had been held with the contractor who had undertaken the original clearance of the two sites and an estimate of £600 had been obtained. Members considered that there was little point in clearing the sites again without a plan for their future use. Councillor Evans reminded Members that he had previously prepared a proposal for the larger site

Recommended – That Councillor Evans be asked to forward his proposal to the Clerk, who would then ask the contractor currently working on the frontage to the Bridgend Road allotment site, for his views and an estimate of the cost of the works

4. Rights of Way matters

(a) Open Cast Site – There were currently large numbers of local residents accessing the site and many had asked whether the former roads and footpaths would be protected/re-instated

NOTED – That Councillor Turner would raise the matter with RCT and report further to a future meeting

(b) Meeting with Network Rail, RCT and Persimmon Homes

NOTED – That the next meeting would be held on 23 October

(c) Llanharan Walking Route

NOTED – That RCT had promised to programme this work early in September

(d) Path from Argoed Avenue to Danygraig Road

NOTED – That the land-owner had been provided with a specification for a bridleway at the site and he was obtaining costings for the works

5. Arrangements for Future Meetings – The Miner's Welfare Hall was fully used on the first Tuesday of each month and the Chairman of the Committee had suggested that future meetings be held on the first Wednesday of the month

RESOLVED – That as a Wednesday is unsuitable to the majority of Members on the Committee, the meeting continue to be held on a Tuesday at 7.15pm at the Council Office