

## WEAR SIDE SMALLHOLDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held, 5<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Committee Room

*Committee and Officials Present: I. Hornsey; P. Smith; J. Riddle; K. Turnbull; G. Clifford; J. Smurthwaite; D. Charlton; C. Howe; J. Searle.*

*Apologies: J. Gillies; M. Havelock*

### AGENDA ITEMS

#### 1. Matter arising from the previous meetings/minutes

None. Minutes passed and can be published (**Action: GA**)

#### 2. CORRESPONDENCE

- 2.1 Water bill received. Invoices for toilet cleaning, security camera at gates, tap repairs, new agreement printing, and printing.

#### 3. FINANCE

##### 3.1 Statement

Monies as in the bank.

#### 4. BUSINESS

##### 4.1 Rent increase.

No written reply has yet been received. Committee will make a submission to the Ombudsman when the required time for a response has elapsed or when an unsatisfactory written response is received. Members will be updated regarding the situation at the AGM. (**Action: I Hornsey**)

Agreed to collect rent once the AGM is held: to include the increased amount requested by Sunderland Council (although this will continue to be contested) and the amount necessary to pay the water bill now due - £76.

##### 4.2 Fires complaint

There has been no complaints, however good practice should be encouraged to avoid them.

The Committee should reiterate member responsibilities when burning, and the sensitivities. This will also be raised at the AGM. **(Action: All; I. Hornsey)**

#### **4.3 Thefts**

One report. Anyone caught stealing produce or entering gardens without prior permission (of which the committee has been informed) will face immediate eviction. Plot-holders should be discouraged from entering any other gardens without express permission of the tenant and advice to the Committee. **(Action: Committee)**

#### **4.4 Fence replacement at Waterworks site**

Work is due to commence. Letters to be sent informing affected plot-holders that access will be required for the work, and subsequently for monthly inspection. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**

#### **4.5 Rabbits**

In progress – contacting the Council to ask them to contact nearby landowners (including Network Rail) to identify whether any action is being taken to control rabbit infestations on neighbouring land. **(Action : I. Hornsey)**

#### **4.6 Trees at Shields Road**

The Council has confirmed it will manage the trees overhanging the site at Shields Road. Awaiting date.

#### **4.7 Request for plot from Community Group**

While the Fulwell Community Library/Friends of Fulwell is on the waiting list for a Community garden, another Community Group that might not have need for its plot will be approached to see if the tenancy is still needed.

#### **4.8 Removing asbestos**

Situation remains the same, although the Environmental Officer will be contacted to see if there is any assistance available. **(Action: I. Hornsey).**

#### **4.9 Letters**

These have now been sent or hand delivered to the relevant plot-holders.

#### **4.10 AGM**

The AGM will now be booked and two weeks' notice given; items/questions to be raised should be submitted in writing beforehand (notices will explain this); posts to be added to the Society's Facebook/Internet sites.

**NEXT MEETING      June 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 10:30 a.m.**

Previous minutes are available at the web site: <http://www.wearsidesmallholders.org.uk/>