

## **WEAR SIDE SMALLHOLDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Held, March 3rd 2019, Committee Room**

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

***Apologies:***

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

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

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

#### **2. CORRESPONDENCE**

##### **2.1 Council letter regarding increase in rent**

Letter from Council explaining a rent increase of approx. 51% after comparison with other Councils. Committee agreed that there are contractual and legal objections to this increase and it will contest this.

Agreed to raise the matter with the Council, and delay rent collection and the AGM until a response is obtained.

**(Action: I. Horsey – to contact Council and advise that the plot-holder tenancy agreement does not allow such an increase).**

#### **3. FINANCE**

##### **3.1 Statement**

Monies as in the bank.

#### **4. BUSINESS**

##### **4.1 Usher's Field Gates**

Lock etc. for outer gates has been obtained and needs to be fitted - ongoing.  
**(Action: I. Hornsey)**

#### **4.2 Fires complaint**

The Committee rejected a proposal from the Council that burning should take place on the first day of each month, following a complaint from a single resident. Nothing more has been heard from the Council.

The Police are continuing to follow up complaints from plot-holders about the residents' behaviour on site.

#### **4.3 Thefts**

There have been burglaries on site. The Committee should remain vigilant and also make plot-holders aware that this has happened. Plot-holders should report burglaries to the Committee (but can also report them to the Police). Anyone caught stealing produce etc. will face immediate eviction. Plot-holders should be discouraged from entering any other gardens without express permission of the tenant. **(Action: Committee)**

Wildlife cameras will be installed in designated area of the allotments site **(Action: I. Hornsey)**

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

No planning permission is necessary – estimates have been requested for the work. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**

#### **4.5 Rabbits**

Agree to contact the Council, and 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)**

**NEXT MEETING      April 7<sup>th</sup> 2019 10:30 a.m.**

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