

## WEAR SIDE SMALLHOLDERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held, 7<sup>th</sup> April 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 with an amendment and can be published (**Action: GA**)

#### 2. CORRESPONDENCE

2.1 Received - Invoice for repairs to gates.

#### 3. FINANCE

##### 3.1 Statement

Monies as in the bank.

#### 4. BUSINESS

##### 4.1 Rent increase.

A complaint has been lodged with the relevant Department by phone regarding the rent increase, although the promised follow up call has not been received. The Committee agreed to send a letter of complaint that had been drafted, to the complaints Department requesting a written response within seven days (to be sent by recorded delivery). (**Action: I Hornsey**)

##### 4.2 Usher's Field Gates

Agreed – not to install lock to outer gates.

### **4.3 Fires complaint**

There has been no further communication from the Council.

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

### **4.4 Thefts**

No new burglaries have been reported. 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)**

### **4.5 Fence replacement at Waterworks site**

Estimates have been received for the work and contractor agreed. Awaiting start date. **(Action: I. Hornsey)**

### **4.6 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)**

### **4.7 Water**

This has been turned on again.

### **4.8 Trees at Shields Road**

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

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

Committee agreed that the Fulwell Community Library/Friends of Fulwell should be added to the waiting list for a Community garden.

#### **4.10 Removing asbestos**

It was confirmed that the Committee will remove the waste but that the plot-holder should bag it and leave it for collection.

#### **4.11 Letters**

The Committee agreed that two drafted letters should now be sent to the relevant plot-holders.

#### **4.12 AGM**

No decision was made at this stage until a response has been received from the Council regarding the rent increase.

**NEXT MEETING      May 5<sup>th</sup> 2019 10:30 a.m.**

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