

Present: Councillor Anderson, (Chair) and Councillors Blackburn, Brownson, Fleming and Golightly.

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk)

A&E.1/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present.

A&E.2/15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

A&E.3/15 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

A&E.4/15 RENT REVIEW

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk with regard to the annual rent review relating to 2017/18. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members were reminded that the Town Council was required to give tenants 12 months notice of any increase in rent. Consideration was given to a table showing rent history from 2010/11 to 2016/17, together with a comparison of rent paid by tenants of Durham County Council allotments.

RECOMMENDED: That rent for 2017/18 remain at 50p per square meter with a 50% discount applied if the plot is more than half cultivated.

A&E.5/15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with the provisions of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the press and public for the remaining item on the agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest.

A&E.6/15 BROKEN BANKS, REQUEST TO KEEP PIGEONS

Consideration was given to a request received from a tenant of Broken Banks to keep pigeons on the plots he rents from the Town Council. (For copy see file of Minutes).

Members noted that livestock was not usually allowed to be kept on these allotments, together with the circumstances surrounding the request.

RECOMMENDED: 1. That the request be approved due to the exceptional circumstances.

A&E.7/15 WOODHOUSE CLOSE ALLOTMENTS, RELOCATION OF HORSES AND LARGER ANIMALS

Members were updated with respect to the relocation of horses and larger animals from Woodhouse Close allotment site. (For copy see file of Minutes).

RECOMMENDED: 1. That the information be noted.
2. That a site visit be made so that further consideration can be given to future use of vacant plots.

Signed:
Chair

A&E.8/15 WEST MILLS ALLOTMENT SITE

Consideration was given to a report with regard to the vacant plots at West Mills allotment site and issues relating to fly tipping and future use of the site. (For copy see file of Minutes).

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That the information be noted.
 2. That Durham County Council be requested to install a suitable gate at the entrance to the allotments
 3. That Durham County Council be requested to clear rubbish from the site and make good.
 4. That a site visit be made so that further consideration can be given to future use of the site.
 5. That no new tenancies be given to keep horses at West Mills allotment site.

N.B. Councillor Blackburn left the meeting at the conclusion of the above item.

A&E.9/15 DETERMINATION OF TENANCIES

Members were updated with regard to action taken relating to the determination of tenancies at Mill Race (For copy see file of Minutes).

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That the information be noted.