

BROOMFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of Broomfield Parish Council Village Amenities Committee
Held in the Council Office at Broomfield Village Hall
at 7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 10th October 2018.**

VA18/107.	Members attending Chairman Councillor Tranquada Councillors Howell, Steed, Garwood and Thomson Ex officio Cllr Barnes Apologies Cllrs Hubble, Fletcher Also Present The Clerk, Cllr Daden and four members of the public
VA18/108.	Declarations of interests Cllrs Steed, Barnes and Thomson declared an interest as members of Broomfield Cottage Gardners Society (BCGS). Cllr Barnes declared an interest as an allotment tenant.
VA18/109.	To consider recording the meeting The Village Amenities meeting will not be recorded.
VA18/110.	Public question time A representative of the allotment tenants expressed interest in the proposal for an allotments association as an effective way of giving the tenants a say in how the allotments are managed. The clerk confirmed that the Council would keep the responsibility for administration and fund-holding, with the Allotments Committee working to maintain, improve and develop the site within their terms of reference. Allotment tenants reported that the clearance skip was delivered one day early and was filled before some could make use of it. A resident questioned the need for a Council vehicle, expressing doubt that it would pay for itself given the current needs. The Clerk reminded those present, that a vehicle would have to account for current and future needs; it would make it possible for the Council to offer a wider range of services. The Committee heard representation reminding them of the contribution that BCGS made to the parish and the need for a social and trading hub. Their view is that there is not a sufficiently strong argument to relocate their trading post so that the Council could house a vehicle. Other, more cost-effective options were available and any decision should respect the purpose for which the land was granted and be restricted to allotment use.

VA18/111.	<p>To approve the minutes of the Village Amenities Committee Meeting held 12th September 2018.</p> <p>Resolved: The minutes of the Village Amenities Committee Meeting held on 12th September 2018 are accepted as a true record. Proposed Cllr Tranquada and carried unanimously.</p> <p>Cllr Tranquada confirmed that the meeting was asked to consider purchase of three taps but agreed to purchase one tap.</p>
VA18/112.	<p>Allotment Site.</p>
a.	<p>The Clerk reported that there are two half-plots vacant.</p>
VA18/113.	<p>To consider options for Parish Council vehicle</p> <p>As part of the assessment of needs, the councillors, Allotment Holders and BCGS were invited to view an all-terrain vehicle typical of the type considered suitable for the Council's needs. Some committee members were doubtful that the council needed an all-terrain vehicle, but did agree that it would be beneficial to have a vehicle of some kind, with some preferring an electric one. The Clerk reminded the Committee that the initial decision to have an all-terrain vehicle had already been made in VA18/98, but this decision was not binding and could be reviewed in the light of experience.</p> <p>Following the site visit to the barn on 10th October, BCGS did not see the necessity to adapt the barn to receive this vehicle when a demountable or a substantial lean-on on the side of the barn would be sufficient.</p> <p>Resolved. The council will purchase a vehicle to support the Council's current and future work programme, with the specific type to be chosen at a later date. Proposed Cllr Steed seconded Cllr Howell and carried with one against.</p>
VA18/114.	<p>To consider the establishment of an allotments association and allotments sub-committee.</p> <p>Having considered the clerk's report, the committee agreed that there was a need to formalise communications between the allotment tenants and the Council. Concerns about how the creation of such an association would affect BCGS were noted and the Clerk reported that the two organisations could have as much or as little common ground as they wished, but a close association would strengthen the case for maintaining the current arrangements for the barn.</p> <p>Resolved. The Committee approves the creation of an allotments subcommittee with the terms of reference circulated. Creation of the subcommittee will be dependent on the successful creation of an allotments association capable of sending two elected committee members to the meetings. Proposed Cllr Tranquada seconded Cllr Steed and carried unanimously.</p>

VA18/115.	Information regarding the Orchards East Heritage Lottery Fund Project – Essex It was noted that there was only one potential site – Glebe Yard. It was also noted that BCGS could be interested, either collectively or individually by encouraging members to plant local varieties in their own gardens. The Committee thanked Mr Neil Wiffen for his contribution and suggestions, but unfortunately there was no capacity for the Village Amenities Committee to undertake a survey although other organisations might be interested.
VA18/116.	Trees
a.	Following the recent tree survey the Committee noted that work will be carried out to the trees on Parsonage Green and Church Green on 18 th October.
VA18/117.	Financial Matters.
a.	There were no purchases to consider. The Clerk asked the committee to consider any purchases or projects that needed to be included in the budget proposals.
VA18/118.	To receive Health & Safety Inspections.
a.	The Health & Safety Inspections for September were noted. The Clerk will get a price for renewing the inner part of the roundabout soft play Surface.
VA18/119.	Centenary Wood – to receive update from Councillor Tranquada. As the Committee has not heard from the Scouts about a tree to commemorate their centenary it was agreed to purchase and plant a tree at 10 o/c on November 3 rd . The Scouts will be invited, and the tree could be dedicated at a later date. Cllr Howell was delegated to purchase an appropriate tree and supports and ties. Resolved. The Council will purchase a suitable apple tree to plant. Proposed Cllr Tranquada and carried unanimously.
VA18/120.	Parish Paths Partnership (P3) – to receive update Councillor Tranquada. No update for this month.

Meeting closed at 9.10 PM