

The minutes of the Open Spaces Working Party held at The Portland Inn, Gurnard on Wednesday 26th November 2014 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Fuller

Community Representatives: Pat Abrook and Jean Joliffe

1 APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence were received from Merrs Bilson, Boorman, Cobden, Cooke, Parker and Pearson, Townsend and Mrs Martin.

2 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN

Cllr Fuller offered to chair the meeting and everyone present agreed.

3 UPDATE ON THE PROJECT

Cllr Fuller provided those present with a short update, including how the project has been given backing from local residents.

4 TERMS OF THE LEASE

Those present read through the lease conditions advised from the Isle of Wight Council. Feedback had also been provided by some residents who were unable to attend, advising that they saw no problems with the terms. Some discussion took place regarding the clause – “no right to assign the lease in whole or part” and questions were asked about how allotments could be rented. Cllr Fuller advised that formal allotments would not be allowed during the eleven year restricted time, but was hopeful that a Community Growing scheme would be allowed instead. This is a recreational past-time that could be self –funded by the sale of produce in the longer term. Discussions also took place regarding future use of the land, suggestions included a football pitch and outdoor gym. There would be funding available for any “sporting” activities if the group decided to investigate those options in the longer term. Therefore it was:

RECOMMENDED: That the terms of the lease are accepted and that the Parish Council takes on the 125 year lease from the Isle of Wight Council.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In view of the fact that the Parish Council needs to ratify the recommendation, then advise the Isle of Wight Council, it was agreed that the next meeting would take place early January 2015 to decide next steps.

The meeting closed at 6.25 pm

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Chairman