

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN**  
**THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 44 OLD STREET, CLEVEDON,**  
**ON WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE 2014 AT 6.45pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr C Wring, Committee Chairman  
 Cllrs Hall, Hatch, Knott & Pennycott  
 Mrs S Howard – (Committee Clerk)

**AL/14/408 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies received from Cllr Middleton – Vice Chairman, Cllr Bussey (CH) & Cllr McNeill (VR).

<b>PART 2</b>
---------------

**AL/14/409 TO RECEIVE THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE CLERK REGARDING THE BADGER SETT ON CHURCH HILL ALLOTMENT GARDEN, CH118**

The Committee Clerk informed the Councillors at the meeting that the tenant of CH117 had reported that there could be an active badger sett on CH118.

The Committee Clerk discussed with the Town Clerk and the following actions were taken.

The Tenant of the allotment garden was advised of the possible badger sett and to take care when on site.

The Councillor and Tenant Representatives of Church Hill Allotments were notified of the report of a possible badger sett.

Phone calls were made to North Somerset Council, Council Connect who confirmed that they do not get involved with protected species; we would need to contact Department for the Environment for Food and Rural Affairs, DEFRA.

The Regional Representative for National Society Allotment Leisure Gardens advised to contact the Avon Wildlife Trust.

Avon Wildlife Trust advised a Consultancy Survey could be done and the Committee Clerk has obtained a full report as to the costs and what is involved with the survey.

Avon Badger Group advised that the species is protected. We must leave the sett alone and put a fence around it to protect them and our land.

Natural England also advised that the species is protected and sent information sheet about badgers and also a licence application form.

Other Allotment Officers in District and Parish Councils were contacted to seek advice from them. Most advised to contact the Avon Wildlife Trust.

Photos of the hole were taken by the Committee Clerk on 29 May 2014.

The Tenant Representative for Church Hill advised the Committee Clerk that it was not an active sett and that the badger was seeking food, hence the hole that had been dug. The Tenant Representative informed me that he had placed a large stone in the hole to deter badgers from digging any further.

The Tenant Representative for Church Hill advised that the hole was a bee's nest and the badger was after the honey and also there had been a swarm on Friday 30 May 2014.

The Committee Clerk visited the Allotment site on 4 June 2014 and more photos were taken of the hole with the large stone still in place. There were no signs of further activity on site, nor any signs of bee activity.

**AL/14/410 TO DISCUSS AND DECIDE WHAT ACTION IS TO BE TAKEN WITH THE BADGER SETT ON THE GARDEN**

The Committee Chairman thanked the Committee Clerk for the extensive actions that had been made in response to the report of the badger sett.

The Committee concluded that it has been difficult to determine if the hole is in fact an active badger sett. It was noted that there has been the report of the bee's nest, but no sign of bees had been seen at the hole. The Members also noted that the Tenant Representative is a co-opted member of the Allotment Committee and therefore is under Council jurisdiction. The hole was investigated by the Tenant Representative by using a stick inside the hole, it was found that the hole didn't go very far and therefore he used a large stone to block the entrance. The Committee Clerk stressed to the Committee that by the Tenant Reps actions, i.e. the large stone installed in the hole, that if the sett is found to be active then we have broken the law and could be prosecuted under The Protection of Badgers Act 1992.

The Committee **AGREED** to continue to monitor the possible badger sett and to take photos each time the site is visited so that a full record can be kept.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN ..... Date .....