

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Thursday 18 February 2016 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillor Keith Panter
Councillor Michael Hopper
Simon Nicholson - Spital Hill (In the Chair)
Carol Richardson - Showfield
Dick Parkin - Love Lane
Peter Arthy - Foxby Hill
Graham Thomas - North Warren

In Attendance:

Matthew Gleadell	Clerk
Sean Alcock	Operations Manager
Rachel Allbones	Deputy Clerk

Also Present: 5 members of the public

Prior to the meeting being formally opened Simon Nicholson expressed the committees condolences to Derek Cowan following the passing of his wife and former Showfield Allotment secretary Ann Cowan.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Simon Nicholson made a statement to the sub-committee advising that he raised an issue with the Clerk that the Councils Structure & Function policy on the website was incorrect and had not been updated since it was agreed by Council that 5 Members of the Council be appointed to the Allotments Sub-Committee.

Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Clio Perraton-Williams

RESOLVED to accept the apologies received and reasons given.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND TO RECEIVE ANY APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

All secretaries agreed that they all had a pecuniary interest in their own allotment sites, but agreed to stay in the meeting to advise of any issues on their site. The Clerk granted a dispensation for this purpose.

3. MINUTES (Paper A)

- i. Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held Tuesday 30 June 2015.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held Tuesday 30 June 2015 be approved as a correct record, subject to it being amended that Ann Cowan was appointed Vice Chairman, and it was Simon Nicholson that requested a letter be sent to John Butler and not Dick Parkin.

4. PRESENTATION FROM THE CLERK REGARDING ALLOTMENT BUDGETS

The Clerk explained to the Sub-Committee the process of the budgeting process and raising a precept. He also advised regarding the difference of the allotments sub-committee and main committees, that the Allotments Sub-Committee does not have any spending powers and must recommend all spend to the Community Services Committee, where they have the power to refuse or spend.

It was noted that Allotment secretaries are allowed to attend the Community Services Committee when allotment items are to be discussed. Some secretaries were unaware of this. It was suggested that a set procedure in order for Councillors on the Allotments Sub-Committee to be fully briefed by the secretaries when taking requests for spend to the Community Services Committee.

The secretaries were of the view that it should be recognised that they spend a lot of time and effort on the allotments and have a lot of horticultural knowledge and the Community Services Committee should respect the requests that come from the Sub-committee.

A secretary raised concerns that a member of the Council should be allowed to just turn up on the sites. It was advised that Members of the Council should advise secretaries if they wish to visit their site and meet on site.

It was noted by the secretaries that the Council has a statutory duty to provide Allotments, but not sports grounds & community grants where they feel money doesn't need to be sent.

Secretaries agreed that the Clerk & Operations Manager are just the messengers and no frustration was aimed directly at them.

5. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Carol Richardson requested that the following be looked into for her site: -

- A single gate be put in the front gate for plot holders arriving on foot, and the vehicular access gate is quite heavy.
- A skip to clear some rubbish - Carol was advised to contact the office and that can be sorted straight away.
- Some hardcore - Already spoken with the Operations Manager and it is being sorted.
- Struggling with the bucket and rope on the well.

6. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Peter Arthy advised that 2 arrests have been made following some break-ins on site as they were caught on camera.

He advised that the allotment site are becoming a constituted group at their next AGM.

7. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Simon Nicholson advised he had let a plot which contained asbestos and advised the plot holder it would be removed ASAP.

The Operations Manager advised he would look into removing asbestos as a job lot over the sites, but needed guidance whether all asbestos would be removed i.e. shed roofs etc, or just what secretaries wanted removing.

- Enquired if the large conifer tree were included in the Council's tree safety survey, he was advised that they were not, requested the large conifer trees could be felled.
- Following on from the Community Services Committee recommendations to repair fencing, requested 10m x 1.2m paling fencing and posts in order to help hedging plants grow.
- Requested a sign to advise plot holders not to drive on site during the winter as ruts are appearing in the roadways.
- Requested that some plots be trimmed, not sure how many yet though.
- Would like to start providing micro plots, but will need to sort out logistics of it first.

8. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

- Would like to make unusable plot into car park using hardcore.

9. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Graham Thomas advised he was having a few issues with people wanting to keep bees on the site. He was advised that there was a section on bees in the terms & conditions booklet and they will need to be a registered keeper and have informed the Council if they wish to do so.

10. COLLECTION ANNUAL ALLOTMENT RENTS

Secretaries were provided with the Annual Income Statement, Arrangements for the Administration of Allotments, Tenancy Agreements and Terms & Conditions booklet, and advised if they have any questions or issues to contact the office.

The meeting closed at 8.32pm.