

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Thursday 31st July 2014 at 6.30pm

Present: Councillor Kenneth Woolley
Councillor Vaughan Hughes
Councillor Paul Key
Mrs Ann Cowan (Old Showfields)
Mr Frank Holmes (Foxby Hill)
Mr Simon Nicholson (Spital Hill)

In Attendance: Matthew Gleadell (Clerk)
Sean Alcock (Operations Manager)

Also in Attendance: 3 members of the public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. John Butler as Chair of the Allotments Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

2. ELECTION OF VICE – CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED to appoint Cllr. Vaughan Hughes as Vice Chairman of the Allotments Sub Committee for the ensuing year.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Richy Doran

RESOLVED to accept the apologies for absence and reasons given.

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

Cllr. Vaughan Hughes declared a non pecuniary interest as a Love Lane allotment holder. .

5. MINUTES

- i. Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held Wednesday 31 July 2013.
- ii. Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held Tuesday 18 March 2014.

There being an insufficient number of members present that had also been present at both meetings referred to above, it was **RESOLVED** to defer the approval of the minutes until the next Allotments Sub Committee meeting.

6. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Ann Cowan enquired if the Council had received a response to correspondence sent to the tenant of Plot 34.

Ann reported on an incident which the Clerk had investigated. Ann thanked the Clerk for his assistance.

Note: Cllr Butler arrived at 18.44.

Ann thanked the Council for the new lawnmower and notice board.

Ann explained that some of her plot holders are still confused about rules concerning fires.

7. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Frank reported on a number of break in which he blamed on weak spots in the hedges. Frank advised he had caught the culprit on camera and that the police are involved. Frank explained that the weak spots in the hedges were caused by bad flailing of the hedge. Frank asked for Chain Link fence in front of the hedge which Sean Alcock agreed to investigate.

Frank also advised on some issues involving the locks for the site which Sean Alcock also agreed to investigate.

8. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Simon thanked the Council for the new noticeboard.

Simon reported of ongoing concerns regarding security and it was agreed that Sean Alcock would investigate new locks and increasing the height of the Gate.

9. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Cllr Butler reported in Dick Parkin's absence.

Cllr Butler expressed concerns about allotment holders bringing their own rubbish in to go in the skip.

Generally Cllr. Butler advised that Love Lane is working OK but did mention 8-10 plots that could not be let due to drainage problems. Cllr Hughes confirmed that the drainage is now much improved.

10. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk gave a brief update of matters arising including the theft of the entrance gate.

The Clerk also reported on an apology given by West Lindsey District Council for losing Fly Tipping evidence which had been submitted to them with a view to a prosecution.

11. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENT COMMUNITY AREA

The members appreciated the sentiment of wishing to create a memorial community area on 2 vacant plots for an allotment holder that had recently died.

The members ultimately felt that the allotment was not an appropriate place for this project and had concerns that a precedent would be set if they allowed it.

RESOLVED to reject the request to create a memorial community area.

12. NEW ALLOTMENT HOLDER TENANCY AGREEMENT – REVIEW OF CONSULTATION FEEDBACK.

The members reviewed the Consultation feedback received. After due consideration it was felt that no variations to the draft Agreement would be necessary.

RESOLVED to recommend to Community Services Committee that the new draft Agreement be adopted and 12 months notice of its introduction be issued to Allotment Holders but any new Allotment Holders to be made subject to the Agreement as from September 2014.

13. WEED CONTROL ON VACANT PLOTS

Note: Cllr. Dobbie arrived at 20.17.

Cllr. Butler expressed his concerns about weed control on vacant plots. Discussion ensued as to methods of controlling weeds and the Council involvement in such processes. Sean Alcock advised that the Council owns a flail mower which may help in dealing with weeds on vacant plots. Secretaries were advised to contact Sean Alcock to discuss any issues concerning overgrown vacant plots.

The meeting closed at 20.45

Chairman