

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Tuesday 27 September 2016 at 6.30pm

Present: Simon Nicholson - Spital Hill (In the Chair)

Councillor Keith Panter

Peter Arthy - Foxby Hill
Graham Thomas - North Warren

In Attendance:

Matthew Gleadell Clerk to the Council

Also Present: 2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Harry Clarke
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Michael Hopper
Old Showfields Secretary
Love Lane Secretary

RESOLVED to accept apologies received and reasons given.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

3. MINUTES

i. Minutes of the meeting of Allotments Sub-Committee Tuesday 28 June 2016

RESOLVED subject to a number of small amendments that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on 28 June 2016 were approved as a correct record.

4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that Carol Richardson could not attend the meeting as she was currently on holiday. Carol had submitted some comments regarding the site to the Chair who read out the comments on behalf of Carol.

The Clerk also added that there had been some break-ins at the site over the weekend, and the site had requested some higher fencing.

The Clerk explained that he would investigate the request.

The Secretary of Foxby Hill Allotments stated previous requests from his site for fencing had been rejected.

It was noted that after enquiries with plot holders the site did not wish to look at becoming independent.

5. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Peter Arthy advised that there had been a break-in at the site 5 to 6 weeks ago and that the culprit was caught on camera and had subsequently been arrested and is due to be attending court in October. Peter also advised that 5 plots out of 70 had issues arising following inspections, one of which had now resulted in the tenant vacating their plot. The other four sites were due for re-inspection on the 7 October.

6. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Simon Nicholson reported that the fence on Cox's Hill had collapsed and needs re-instating.

Simon explained that a number of plots had been strimmed during the summer but no one had been back to carry out any spraying despite assurances that someone would do.

Simon explained that he is keen to agree some time frames for certain work to be carried out.

It was noted that after enquiries with plot holders the site did not wish to look at becoming independent.

8. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that Dick Parkin was not at the meeting due to illness and therefore no report was given.

9. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary advised that there had been some recent fly tipping over the gate. The Secretary explained that if the gate was higher this would make it harder for this to happen. It was also noted that the fence on the side of the river needs something doing with it as it is persistently falling down.

It was noted that a number of plots do require strimming and spraying.

It was also noted that a lock had broken on the gate.

It was noted that after enquiries with plot holders the site did not wish to look at becoming independent.

10. MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

The Chair explained that he believes it would be a good idea if there is a schedule of work agreed for each site with the Council and suggested that the Secretaries arranged some appointments with The Clerk and Sean to discuss the work that will be carried out and the time frames for this work to happen.

It was agreed that these meetings would be arranged accordingly.

11. VICE-CHAIRMAN

It was noted that Peter Arthy had been appointed Vice Chairman but the Council's structure and function states that the role of Chair and Vice Chair should be split between The Council member and a Secretary accordingly. At present it was noted that the posts were held by 2 Secretaries.

It was noted due a persistent absence of members at the meetings that it may be difficult to appoint a member and therefore a change to the structure and functions was considered appropriate.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE that the Council's structure and functions is amended to allow for the role of Chair and Vice Chair of the Allotments Sub Committee be held by Allotment Secretaries.

12. ALLOTMENT PRODUCE

The request for produce was considered by the meeting. All sites agreed that they would put a notice in their notice boards advising of the project and therefore any tenants wishing to donate any produce would be welcome to do so. It was noted that certain sites already donate produce to the X-Church. A notice for the respective notice boards was requested by the plots.