

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Tuesday 30 April 2013 at 6:30pm

Present: Mrs Ann Cowan (Vice Chairman)

Councillor John Butler
Councillor Vaughan Hughes
Mr Frank Holmes (Foxby Hill)
Mr Simon Nicholson (Spital Hill)

In Attendance: Acting Clerk to the Council
Assistant Clerk to the Council
Environmental Officer

Also in Attendance: 2 PCSO's
2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Richy Doran
Councillor David Manning

RESOLVED to accept the apologies and reasons given.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

No declarations were made.

3. MINUTES (Paper A)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 6 February 2013 be confirmed.

4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Cowan thanked the Council for the delivery of hardcore. She also advised that the signpost needed a stake in it and the Clerks name needed amending.

Mrs Cowan informed Councillors present that any Councillors are welcome to visit showfield allotments at any time.

5. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Mr Holmes thanked the Police for the good work.

6. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Mr Nicholson requested that at least a week's notice of the sub-committee meeting be given in the future.

Mr Nicholson advised that the site had experienced a lot of vandalism recently, but allotment sites need a deterrent. The Police had been very good in taking statements but no further action is taken.

The PCSO's advised that when crime reports are completed it generates a letter to the victim which stays on file forever. They advised that allotment crime is an extremely hard crime to prove and there is usually no witnesses during the evening.

The PCSO's advised they would put a document together to circulate round plot holders to reiterate allotment security issues. It was also advised that an Allotment Watch could be set up for Gainsborough to inform all that join it what issues have been reported to the Police on each site.

Mr Nicholson requested that the Council improve the security on allotment sites with better fencing.

The Acting Clerk advised that security fencing was not budgeted for and would be extremely pricey. The Acting Clerk suggested that Mr Nicholson along with consultation from other allotment secretaries put together some firm proposals to the Management and Finance Committee as to what you would like to see on the sites for them to consider at their June meeting.

RESOLVED for Mr Nicholson, in consultation with other Members, put together some firm proposals for the Management and Finance Committee to consider at their meeting in June.

7. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Butler advised that there had been some vandalism on the allotments which had been reported to the Police.

He also advised that there will be a meeting with Thonock and Somerby Estates (the land owner) in the near future to discuss the drainage situation. The Acting Clerk offered her assistance in arranging a meeting with Thonock and Somerby Estates.

The Environment Officer read a letter from a plot holder advising that he does not intend to pay his allotment rent until something is done to support the plot holders with all the flooding.

Members expressed that it was the same on most sites and the weather had not been on their side.

It was advised that every attempt is being made to solve the problem with the drainage and things will move forward once the site drainage plans had been received from Thonock and Somerby Estates.

Councillor Hughes thanked Councillor Butler for the ongoing work on the allotments.

8. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

There is not currently a secretary on site, but no matters had been brought to the attention of the Council.

9. ALLOTMENT HOLDER TENANCY AGREEMENT (Paper B)

Members were advised that the Environmental Officer will put a new Tenancy Agreement and separate Rules and Regulations document together for the meeting on 31 July, and will circulate to Members by the end of June in order for comments to be made.

10. TO DISCUSS AND APPOINT LOVE LANE ALLOTMENT SECRETARY

The Environmental Officer advised that one nomination had been put forward, which was Mr R Parkin.

It was suggested that a trial period be given and review in 6 months.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE to give Mr R Parkin a 6 month trial period as the Secretary for Love Lane Allotments.

11. TO DISCUSS AND APPOINT NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENT SECRETARY

The Environmental Officer advised that two people had put their names forward to become the Secretary.

Members were advised that North Warren is the only site owned by the Town Council and it was recommended that the Town Council carry out the job as Secretary for a 6 month trial period.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE that the Council carry out the role as allotment Secretary for a 6 month trial period.

The meeting closed at 7.52pm.

Chairman