

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House, Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Tuesday 30 October 2018 at 6.30pm

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

Councillor Harry Clarke
Councillor Liz Clews (arrived at 7.21pm)
Councillor David Dobbie
Carol Richardson - Showfields
Graham Thomas - North Warren
Richard Parkin - Love Lane
Colin Rowley – Treasurer of Foxby Hill Allotment Association

In Attendance:

Rachel Allbones Deputy Clerk to the Council
Sean Alcock Operations Manager
Claire Hill Appointed Clerk to the Council (start date 26th November)

Also Present: 3 members of the public

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Simon Nicholson be appointed Chairman of the Allotments Sub-Committee for 2018/19.

2. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED that Richard Parkin be appointed Vice Chairman of the Allotments Sub-Committee for 2018/19.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Liz Clews advised she would be arriving late.

RESOLVED to accept the apologies received and reasons given.

4. 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 Deputy Clerk granted a dispensation for this purpose.

5. MINUTES (Paper A)

i. Minutes of the meeting of Allotments Sub-Committee Wednesday 25 April 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 25 April 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Note: Councillors Clarke and Dobbie abstained from voting on the above resolution.

ii. Minutes of the meeting of Allotments Sub-Committee Wednesday 18 July 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 18 July 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Note: Councillors Clarke and Dobbie and Carol Richardson abstained from voting on the above resolution.

6. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Carol Richardson advised that a spruce tree was leaning quite badly. The Operations Manager advised that he had spoken to Acis on 3 separate occasions, a tree survey had now been carried out and was advised the tree was no danger but is awaiting a copy of the report. The Operations Manager would chase Acis again.

Carol Richardson requested for some Roundup. The Operations Manager advised he would send the qualified grounds staff to carry out any spraying for them.

7. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Simon Nicholson thanks the grounds staff for the grass cutting and strimming.

8. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Richard Parkin advised the site had had a few break-ins 2-3 months ago. He questioned if another skip company had been found with a smaller lorry, to which the Operations Manager advised all companies have the same size lorry. When asked when the gorse bushes will be arriving, the Operations Manager advised at some point in November.

Richard Parkin advised that he had 3 meetings with Thonock & Somerby Estates regarding the access from Ropery Road and they have confirmed it is not an access route, so plot holders have blocked the access.

Councillor Dobbie questioned if any allotment sites were members of Allotment Watch. Nobody had heard to the initiative so asked Councillor Dobbie to source further details and bring to a future meeting.

9. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Graham Thomas advised they had received a few break-ins recently which had been reported to the Police.

The Operations Manager advised he would chase the contractor approve to carry out the site clearance as he had advised it would have been carried out by now.

10. ALLOTMENT BUDGETS (Paper C)

RESOLVED that Members note the budget sheet and was advised to come forward with any projects for their sites.

Simon Nicholson request for the other set of gates to be increased in height.

11. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENT

Colin Rowley informed Members that Peter Arthy had resigned as secretary of Foxby Hill Allotments Association and the committee were working on appointing a new secretary. Colin advised Members of the progress they had made with the boundary on Foxby Hill and it is their intention to mirror that progress on the Middlefield Lane boundary this weekend.

Colin advised they had recent had a few issues with a plot holder stealing from the site and was given notice to leave their plot, but had fly tipped furniture on the allotment over the last weekend. Colin asked other secretaries of their policy on locking gates during the day. Each secretary informed Colin of their policy as Foxby Hill had an open gate policy during the day, which is how the former plot holder gained access. Colin advised that the Police have been involved regarding the stolen items.

Colin was advised to report any fly tipping to West Lindsey District Council.

Note: Councillor Clews arrived at the meeting at 7.21pm

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF ALLOTMENTS (Paper D)

Secretaries noted their duties in the administration of allotments plots. The Deputy Clerk stressed the importance of all plot holders completing agreements and advised that the office will begin to return a copy of the signed agreements back to plot holder.

The Deputy Clerk is to produce a spreadsheet for each site of all agreements received to aid secretaries in the completion of further agreements.

13. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS SPRAYER

Richard Parkin advise Members that he and another plot holder had already purchased a sprayer for the site.

14. COMPLAINTS

Members were advised that 2 complaints had been received regarding alleged bullying on the allotments from secretaries and had been referred to Allotments Sub-Committee from Management and Finance Committee.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE for the site secretaries to be informed of the complaints received.

15. NORTH WARREN RENT REIMBURSEMENT (Paper E)

Members considered rent reimbursement to a plot holder who gave up their plot in April 2018 after paying 1 years rent in March 2018.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO MANAGEMENT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE to not reimburse the allotment rent, as it does not state in the terms and conditions the Council must and would set a precedence for other plot holders.

The meeting concluded at 7.48pm.