

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Tuesday 31 January 2017 at 6.34pm

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

Councillor Harry Clarke
Councillor Dennis Dannatt
Councillor Michael Hopper
Councillor Kenneth Woolley (ex-officio)

Carol Richardson - Showfields
Graham Thomas - North Warren
David Bratton - Love Lane stand in

In Attendance:

Matthew Gleadell	Clerk to the Council
Rachel Allbones	Deputy Clerk to the Council
Sean Alcock	Operations Manager

Also Present: 2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS GIVEN

Peter Arthy - Foxby Hill
Richard Parkin - Love Lane

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 (Paper A)

i. Minutes of the meeting of Allotments Sub-Committee Tuesday 27 September 2016

RESOLVED subject to a number of small amendments that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 27 September 2016 were approved as a correct record.

4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Carol informed Members that she had suffered a few break ins recently and police have advised to leave sheds unlocked and no valuables on site.

She questions how long birds had to remain under cover for with regards to the bird flu outbreak. Councillor Hopper advised that the recently Defra guidance was until 28 February. Carol asked if she could advertise the few vacant plots. The Clerk advise he had no problem with this and would also look at putting it on the Councils facebook page.

5. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk advised that Foxby site had suffered another large spate of break ins recently.

6. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Simon thanked the Operations Manager and team for fixing he boundary fence, and advised that he would like to revisit the idea of increasing the height o the gates possibly exploring other options other than what was quoted for last time. He advised that he would come to the office to discuss further with Officers.

7. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

David advised that Love Lane had break ins towards the end of last year but had had nothing recently. He advised that the car park would begin once the weather improves.

8. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Graham advised that sewerage was seeping through a drain hole again. The Clerk advised that the Operations Manager would visit site tomorrow and would also contact Severn Trent to advise them.

9. ALLOTMENT BUDGETS (Paper B)

The Clerk reported on Allotment budgets for the year and current site expenditure. He advised money was earmarked in reserves for allotments and to ask if there was a project or works to the done that needed a budget and it would be considered.

RESOLVED to note the report and to have it as a rolling agenda item.

10. COUNCIL FINANCIAL OVERVIEW (Paper C)

The Clerk reported on the general Council financial position including Sports Grounds income and expenditure.

RESOLVED to note the report.

11. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENT

The Clerk advised that the management would be passed over on 1st April 2017, a sub-lease had been drawn up by the Council solicitors and is currently being reviewed by Foxby Hill Committee before being approved by the Management and Finance Committee. The Clerk advised that he recently held a meeting in which all Foxby Hill tenants were invited to discuss and consult the tenants about being a self managed site. All those in attendance voted to be a self managed site. The Town Council will still audit the finance books and policies and the Council will have the ability to pull the sub-lease back fairly quickly should it need to. The Foxby site will keep their rent revenue and will open up further funding opportunities and the Council have agreed to provide £1,000 first year start up fund.

12. SITE MAINTENANCE (Paper D)

Members noted the paper.

It was noted that the agreed actions from the last meeting had not happened but would still stand.

RESOLVED that there be a schedule of works agreed for each site with the Council and that the Secretaries arranged some appointments with the Clerk and Operations Manager to discuss the work that will be carried out and the time frames for this work to happen.

13. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENT

Members were given an update with regards to the site clearance. The Clerk advised that it would be best to clear the site in 2 stages, firstly clear the debris then look at ploughing etc. It was advised that one quote had been received to clear the debris but a further quote was needed, they would then be sent to the Community Services Committee for approval.

Simon questioned if there was scope in the Council team clearing any site. The Operations Manager advised that if secretaries would like any plots clearing to contact him and he will arrange site visit to see what can be done before the growing season starts.

14. SPITAL HILL HEDGE MAINTENANCE

Simon advised that he and Michelle have cut the hedge of the allotments by hand for 10 years after flailing had ripped the heart out of it. He advised it was becoming too dangerous for them to continue with it being so close to the road.

The Clerk advised that it is in the agreement that the Council will maintain the boundary hedges but the method to be use in the future is yet to be seen as the Council have recently agreed to look into other options rather than flailing.

Simon advised that some flailed hedges in the area still look healthy, and possibly look at other contractors who may be more caring and have well maintained equipment.

The meeting concluded at 7:29pm.