

## GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,  
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Tuesday 31 October 2017 at 6.30pm

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

Councillor Dennis Dannatt  
Councillor David Dobbie  
Councillor Keith Panter  
Carol Richardson - Showfields  
Graham Thomas - North Warren  
Richard Parkin - Love Lane

**In Attendance:**

Matthew Gleadell	Clerk to the Council
Rachel Allbones	Deputy Clerk to the Council
John Horan	Deputy Operations Manager

**Also Present:** 3 members of the public

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS GIVEN**

Councillor Harry Clarke  
Councillor Liz Clews  
Peter Arthy - Foxby Hill

**RESOLVED** to accept the 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 Wednesday 2 August 2017

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 2 August 2017 were approved as a correct record.

**4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING**

No matters were reported save for ongoing petty thieving.

The Clerk gave Members an update with regards to the wall backing on to Gains Avenue, advising a budget had been created for a structural survey to be carried out but looking at further options.

**5. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING**

Simon thanked the Council for erecting the new gates, and advised that the old gates are ready to be collected from site, to which the Deputy Operations Manager advised he would do so. The Clerk asked if the paling fencing purchased some time ago would still be required, to which Simon advised it is still required and would arrange with the Deputy Operations Manager to have it delivered to the allotments.

**6. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING**

Richard asked about the status of a new gate. The Clerk advised that a second quotation had been received, and due to the health and safety nature of the issue the Clerk and Operations Manager can sanction the works to begin.

Richard advised that the allotments had suffered serious problems with flooding this year. Allotments holders had been able to dig down and alleviate the problem for now and advised they would continue to try and keep the drains clear themselves.

The Clerk advised that he had looked at getting a drainage survey carried out to aid erasing the problem, which was approx £1,000.

Richard advised that the dyke was being cleared in the next week.

It was also mentioned that the Eco drain from the flats on Albany Street wasn't cleaned and water from the car park runs straight onto the allotments.

**RESOLVED** to write to Rebrook Investments Ltd to ask them to ensure the Eco drain on Albany Street remains clear, and to not pursue the drainage survey any further but to allow plot holders to try and maintain and clear the drains themselves.

**7. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING**

Graham asked about the gate at North Warren allotments. The Clerk advised that the raw materials were in the Council compound but need a further quotation for the works, which will then go before the Community Services Committee on 14 November.

The Contractor appointed to carry out the clean up has been given 2 weeks to complete the works or another contractor will be appointed.

The Clerk advised that Gerald Brooks, working on behalf of Trent View Properties, has submitted a formal complaint on behalf of the tenants due to an alleged rat infestation, which they believe is down to the pigeon loft and feed. A further complaint had also gone to WLDC with regards to planning permission for the loft. Graham advised an employee from WLDC had been to see the loft and advised it is ok.

**8. ALLOTMENT BUDGETS (Paper)**

The Clerk gave members an overview of the allotment budgets and available financial resources. Secretaries were encouraged to identify relevant projects for which funds could be used.

**9. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENT**

The secretary was absent and so no matters were reported.

**10. ALLOTMENT ALLOCATION POLICY (Paper B)**

Simon thanked Councillor Dannatt for his comments at the last meeting. A lengthy discussion was held around this matter. Concerns were still raised over the application of the policy was raised and the potential for it to be used in a manner that may be construed as discrimination.

**RESOLVED** to send the policy to the Policy Review Working Group for further discussion.

Simon requested that all draft minutes be sent to Allotment Secretaries and also inform the secretary if anything regarding allotment site is to be discussed at a further Committee meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.37pm.