

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House, Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Wednesday 25 April 2018 at 6.30pm

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

Councillor Harry Clarke
Councillor Keith Panter
Carol Richardson - Showfields
Graham Thomas - North Warren
Richard Parkin - Love Lane

In Attendance:

Rachel Allbones Deputy Clerk to the Council
Sean Alcock Operations Manager

Also Present: 3 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS GIVEN

Councillor David Dobbie
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 Deputy Clerk granted a dispensation for this purpose.

3. MINUTES (Paper A)

i. Minutes of the meeting of Allotments Sub-Committee Tuesday 30 January 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 30 January 2018 were approved as a correct record.

4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

No matters were reported save for ongoing petty thieving and recent flooding. Carol advised that one plot holder had requested cameras on site but pursuing this at present.

5. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Simon requested for the following: -

- Lawnmower to be returned
- Further repairs to be looked at on fence on Cox's Hill

Simon advised that the skip lorry that is currently used will now not fit in the gate, Love Lane have the same issue.

RESOLVED to consider alternative skip hire suppliers with smaller lorries to accommodate Spital Hill and Love Lane sites.

Simon asked the grounds team could run the mower up the main access route every other week to keep it down and they would tidy up the edges with the push mower.

6. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Richard questioned if the Gorse Hedging Bush application had been successful.

The Operations Manager advised that the Clerk made an application to the Woodland Trust which looks like it's been approved but would not receive delivery of them until November, and additional bushes would be required.

Members were advised that there is £10,000 for allotments in ear marked reserves so further trees can be purchased from that money.

7. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Again, Grahams only concern was the site clearance. Other Members weren't happy with the length of time it was taking to sort.

The Operations Manager apologised but is bound by Council policy with obtaining quotes and Committee approval, and the approved contractor what was awarded the job let us down last time.

He is however waiting for a quote from a local farmer and will feedback in due course.

8. ALLOTMENT BUDGETS (Paper B)

The Deputy Clerk gave members an overview of the actual spends from 2017 / 2018 and the 2018 / 2019 allotment budgets and earmarked reserves available.

RESOLVED that Members note the budget sheet and agree to amalgamate all 3 allotment earmarked reserve pots.

9. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENT

Defer until the next meeting.

10. MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR ALLOTMENT SITES

This agenda item was left on from the last meeting.

Richard Parkin did however thank the Council for assisting in new gates for the site and stone for the road way and car park.

11. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS WALL SURVEY (Paper C)

Members NOTED the report.

The Operations Manager advised that he had sent the report to a few organisations and awaiting responses / quotes.

12. 2019 / 2020 FEES AND CHARGES

It was highlighted that the Management and Finance Committee set the 2019 / 2020 allotment fees without consulting the Allotments Sub-Committee which goes against The Guide to Terms & Conditions.

Members were advised that on Tuesday 20 March 2018 the Management and Finance Committee **RESOLVED** that ‘the Council admit they did not follow the procedure set out in the Terms and Conditions Guide that both tenants and the Council itself have committed to, by not discussing rent increase with the Allotments Sub-Committee first and to leave the 2019 / 2020 rents at £26.50 and £53, and to consult the Allotments Sub-Committee prior to setting the 2020 / 2021 fees.

13. ALLOTMENT SUB-COMMITTEE REMIT

Members were advised that the Policy Review Working Group are currently reviewing all Council policy and request and comments or feedback regarding the Allotments Sub-Committee current remit.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND TO THE POLICY REVIEW WORKING GROUP to: -

- Make a change in the role of Site Secretaries of independently run allotment site at future Allotment Sub-Committee meetings. “While welcome to attend all future Allotment Sub-Committee meetings to present a report to the committee and answer any questions that Councillors may have, Site Secretaries of independently run sites would take no part in discussions or voting on any other agenda item. This is because it is not democratic for ANY Site Secretary to engage in discussion and voting on any issue that may come to affect other allotment sites (subject to Councillor approval) but will not affect their own.”
- Reduce the numbers to 4 Councillors and 4 allotment secretaries
- Amend Allotment Handbook to The Guide to Terms & Conditions use in our Allotment Tenancy Agreement.
- Take note that the following resolution was made at Management and Finance on 18 October 2016 **RESOLVED** 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 and to review in May 2017 to see if this is still a requirement.

The meeting concluded at 7.17pm.