

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House, Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Wednesday 31 July 2019 at 6.30pm

Present: Simon Nicholson - Spital Hill (Chairman)
Councillor Dennis Dannatt
Councillor David Dobbie
Councillor Chris Lambie
Councillor Keith Panter (ex-officio)
Richard Parkin - Love Lane
Gary Spencer – Chairman of Foxby Hill Allotment Association

In Attendance:

Claire Hill Town Clerk
Rachel Allbones Deputy Clerk / Responsible Finance Officer
Sean Alcock Operations Manager

Also Present: 2 members of the public

RESOLVED under Standing Order 10.a.v to appoint Simon Nicholson as Chairman of the Allotments Sub-Committee for 2019/2020.

RESOLVED to appoint Richard Parkin as Vice Chairman of the Allotments Sub-Committee for 2019/2020.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Harry Clarke
Carol Richardson - Showfields
Graham Thomas - North Warren
Frank Holmes – Secretary of Foxby Hill Allotment Association

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 OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Paper A)

Minutes of the meeting of Allotments Sub-Committee Wednesday 24 April 2019.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on Wednesday 24 April 2019 were approved as a correct record.

Note: Councillors Dannatt and Lambie abstained from voting on the above resolution.

4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

The Operations Manager gave the following update: -

- Plot 1 – green waste had been covered with tarpaulin
- Plot 4 – Strimmed and sprayed for re-let
- X2 of the 3 parts of the wall needing immediate attention were complete
- Tree on Acis site that was identified as needing a section felled was scheduled to be carried out today

5. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary thanked the Operations Manager for arranging the tree surgeon for the works on the Cox's Hill side and for the grass cutting. He also thanked the office for the recent enquiries sent his way, some were successful. The Operations Manager advised that some fence posts were currently being made for the Cox's Hill side.

6. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS - MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

The Secretary thanked the Operations Manager for the plots that have been strimmed off. Advised of some tenant and cultivation issues that was currently being dealt with by the Clerk.

7. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS – MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

A plot holder in attendance gave the following update: -

- Thanked the grounds team for the strimming works carried out, $\frac{3}{4}$ of the area cleared by contractors has now been strimmed and will be sprayed once complete.
- A few outstanding keys to be issued following new padlocks on gates.

8. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENT

The Chairman of Foxby Hill Allotment Association advised they were having issues with a plot holder not abiding by the rules. Also the bank account has not been changed from the previous treasurer and secretary to the new ones which is causing concerns. He advised that the site will be going to a vote in the next 3-4 weeks with a view to bringing the site back under the management of the Town Council. The Clerk did advise that there would be a 12 month notice period to come back to Town Council management.

9. DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE FOR ALLOTMENT SUB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Simon Nicholson & Richard Parkin resigned the declarations of acceptance of office of Allotment Sub-Committee member and receive the updated Code of Conduct.

10. ALLOTMENT BUDGETS (Paper B)

Members **NOTED** the budget update as provided.

11. GDPR (Paper C)

Members **NOTED** information in relation to secretary responsibilities towards GDPR.

12. ALLOTMENT WATCH (Paper D)

Members considered the merits of joining the allotment watch scheme with PCSO support available to aid set up.

Members advised they would consult with their plot holders to decide if it is something they wish to pursue.

13. HEDGE WORKS

Members **NOTED** the intention to commission hedge works in September on Love Lane and North Warren sites.

14. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS PLOT PLOUGHING (Paper E)

RESOLVED under Standing Order 10.a.xi to exclude the press and public from the meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest.

Note: Gary Spencer and x2 members of the public left the meeting.

Members considered the position in relation to plot ploughing at North Warren allotments following clearance works.

Some Members were of the view that the demand wasn't there to prepare further plots.

RESOLVED to: -

- Currently take no further action
- Simon Nicholson & Dick Park to meet the site secretary onsite to discuss further
- Bring back for further discussion at the next meeting to discuss a way forward and look at ways of advertising vacant plots.

Note: Councillor Panter left the meeting at 7:41pm.

The meeting concluded at 7.47pm.