

GAINSBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at Richmond House,
Richmond Park, Gainsborough on Wednesday 6 February 2013 at 6:30pm

Present: Councillor David Manning (Chairman)

Councillor Harry Clarke
Councillor Vaughan Hughes
Mr Frank Holmes (Foxby Hill)
Mr Simon Nicholson (Spital Hill)
Mrs Ann Cowan (Showfield)

In Attendance: Acting Clerk to the Council
Assistant Clerk to the Council
Environmental Officer

Also in Attendance: 2 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND REASONS GIVEN

Councillor Richy Doran
Councillor Mark Binns

RESOLVED to accept the apologies and reasons given.

2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

Cllr. Manning declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7 as a Love Lane Allotment holder.

3. MINUTES (Paper A)

RESOLVED on proposal by Mrs Cowan, seconded by Councillor Hughes that the minutes of the Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 4 July 2012 be confirmed subject to the amendment on item 15 to read "No matters arising, currently no Secretary", and signed as a correct record.

4. SHOWFIELD ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Mrs Cowan advised the Committee that as on other sites the rain had caused flooding and was in need of approx 2 tonne of hardcore for the drive way.
She also stated that the notice board was unstable and needed new stakes to prop it up.

5. FOXBY HILL ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Mr Holmes recapped on some historic problems, but currently did not have any matters arising.

6. SPITAL HILL ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Mr Nicholson informed members that near the end of last year all greenhouses on site had been smashed. Police had been informed but no further action had been taken.

The site had been targeted with thefts from shed and parts of sheds, locks had been damaged or completely cut off.

A former pathway through the site had, in association with the land owner, been closed permanently.

It was suggested that now the Council was a member of the National Allotments Association, the Council could look into a block insurance policy for allotment holders.

It was advised that the Police Commissioner was currently looking into forming an Allotment Watch. Further information would be sought with regards to this.

Mr Nicholson hoped that an association of bodies i.e. the Town and District Council would be able to put pressure of the Police for them to act in reducing allotment vandalism.

The Acting Clerk advised that the Council now has PCSO attendance to some meetings and undertook to take it forward with them.

7. LOVE LANE ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Hughes spoke on behalf of Love Lane allotments and advised that the site does need a Secretary to improve the running of it.

RESOLVED to appoint secretaries to both North Warren and Love Lane sites at the next Allotment Sub-Committee meeting.

8. NORTH WARREN ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT MATTERS ARISING

A member of the public expressed his dissatisfaction with the service the Council had provided North Warren allotments in the last year.

He also advised that the Police had attended the site that day as some vandalism had occurred.

9. ALLOTMENT WAITING LISTS

The Secretaries for Foxby Hill and Spital Hill confirmed they did not a waiting list for plots and Showfield allotments had 2 people on a waiting list.

10. BONFIRES

The Acting Clerk informed Members that she had received some correspondence from the Environment Agency who had stressed that no trade waste must be burnt on any of the allotment sites, plant matter and clean wood is acceptable.

The Acting Clerk requested the Secretaries to be aware and keep a watchful eye.

It was also stated that bonfires were prohibited between 1st April and 30th September inclusive unless given authority by the Secretary.

11. ALLOTMENT ACCESS

Secretaries were advised that to make it all equal across all sites plot holders will be charged for a key to the site. The Council would not be supplying them.

12. RENT COLLECTION

The Members were advised that rents were due on 25th March 2013 and that Foxby Hill, Showfields and Spital Hill rents were to be collected by the Secretaries.

Love Lane and North Warren allotment rents will be collected by Officers of the Council on 16th & 23rd March between 9:30am and 12:30pm at Roses Sports Pavilion, for North Warren holders and Love Lane Scout Hut for Love Lane holders.

13. REISSUE OF ALLOTMENT SECRETARY DUTIES (Paper B)

The Secretaries were reminded of their duties and reissued with a paper stating them.

14. ALLOTMENT HOLDER TENANCY AGREEMENT (Papers C & D)

Mr Nicholson informed Members that he had had a Solicitor look at both the current agreement used by the Town Council and the National Allotment Association agreement and advised that neither were enforceable.

RESOLVED to take both away and study them in more detail and look for other authorities agreements with a view to putting together a new agreement for the Council at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:04pm.

Chairman