



Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee Held on Monday 16th September 2019 at 8pm in the Community Office

Committee:

Allotment Holders:

Robert Rogers (Vice-Chairman)

Marie-Claire Allen, Gerald Short, Keith Gambriel.

WPC Representatives: Nicky Smallbone, Amber Chainey

- 35/19 Apologies for Absence
George Bruce, Shane McIntyre
- 36/19 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest notified.
- 37/19 Approval of Minutes
Resolved: That the Minutes from the Meeting on the 8th July 2019 which were received by Council on 10/9/2019 to be signed by the Chairman
- 38/19 Management Issues
- Existing Noticeboard**- RR said that this is now ready to be installed. GB has posts.
Resolved: That this be put by the gate at the school end of the Allotments.
RR will organise
 - New Noticeboard** - To agree the new noticeboard
Resolved: That we order a new noticeboard which will be put in the middle of the allotments, double sided with one for rules, official notices etc and one for the allotment holders to put up their own notices. Size to be 1050mm x750mm. The cost will be approximately £400 (exl VAT).
This will be installed by some committee members.
 - New Dog Signs** – Have these now been put up? RR reported that they have not. KT to email Shane regarding these. If he cannot put up in a week than KT to ask him for them back so they can be put up by someone else.
 - Quarterly newsletter** – These to be put together by GS, RR to feed any information he wishes to be included to him. These will also be put up on the noticeboard when it is installed.
 - Manure and wood chip for plot holders** – To ask Shane about manure from farmers. KT to ask our regular tree contractors about putting wood chip in a specific location on the allotments from local jobs.
 - Removal of Conifer Tree** – There was discussion on this about whether to accept the quote by Owain Devey or for some allotment holders to remove it. It was noted that there were some health and safety concerns if this work was to be done by a volunteer with regard to the size of the tree. The cost of the work was also a concern to one committee member in terms of the allotment budget.
There was then a vote taken on commissioning DTC to do the works. **Vote:** 5 in favour, 1 against
Resolved: That the Clerk commission Devey Tree Care to remove the conifer tree. Wood chipping will be left on site for allotment holders use.

7 **Plot Availability Update** – At the present moment there are no allotments available. It is likely that there will be a couple available in the next few months.

8 **Committee Members actions** – NS asked that when actions are taken on by people that the jobs are done in a timely fashion.

39/18 Allotment Finances

1 **Budget Update** – KT

KT reported that we have had rents in of £1299 to date and have spent £52.00 on Dog Signs. Water costs are likely to be in the region of £350 for the year. The budget is £850 for the year. It was noted that if we require money for a project, we can apply to the Finance Committee.

2 **Water usage of plots** – RR will send KT a meter reading.

3 **Finances 2020/2021** – Consideration of budget requirement for the next financial year.

It was stated that the committee would like to extend the water to plots further along. (5 in favour, 1 against) We will need to see if there is a plan and also obtain a quote from Thames Water. This will be given to the Finance Committee. GS will lead on this with GB and RR. We need to get an approximate cost ASAP

4 **Moving the date when tenancy/payment due** – This has been agreed to be changed to a November date. This will be discussed before April as to the logistics.

5 **Purchase electric timer for water tap to turn off at certain times**- GS said that they are not available to run on batteries so we cannot do this at the moment.

40/19 General Issues

1 **Tour of Allotments for students** – It was agreed that AC speak to the school to see if they would like to do this with Year 7 students – best time would be June or July 2020.

2 **Allotment's for Exercise and Companionship** – NS to speak to Watlington Age Concern. GB has also been looking into this.

3. **Article from the Allotment Committee for the ICC School newsletter** – Do we wish to do this? It was thought that this would not be worth doing as it is probably not of much interest to ICC.

41/19 Maintenance

Paths to be kept clear to full width- RR said that these are a lot better and people are starting to do this. He also said that the shed which was partly on the path has now been put elsewhere.

42/19 Items for Information

No items raised.

43/19 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Rear gates from Love Lane properties to access the allotments** – Situation to be monitored.

2. **Bi-annual inspections** – Sept/Oct 2019 and March 2020 – 2 WPC and 2 Allotment members – An inspection will be done in the next few weeks. RR, GS, AS and NS will do this.

44/19 Date of Next Meeting

11th or 18th November. KT will confirm.

45/19 Any Other Business

Committee – It was noted that with the resignation of Jane Beard and Sally Stewart we could recommend to appoint 2 new members if anyone was interested in coming onto the committee.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.10PM