



## Minutes of The Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 8pm in the Community Office

### Present:

### Committee:

**Allotment Holders:** George Bruce (Chairman), Robert Rogers (Vice-Chairman), Gerald Short

**WPC Representatives:** Nicky Smallbone

**In Attendance:** Fergus Lapage

### 01/20 Apologies for Absence

Marie-Claire Allen, Keith Gambriel

### 02/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest notified.

### 03/20 Approval of Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes from the Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2019 which were received by Council on 8/10/2019 to be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

### 04/20 Management Issues

1 **Existing Noticeboard** – This will be installed when the weather is better (RR to lead)

2 **New Noticeboard** – This has been purchased and will be put up when the weather is better (RR to lead)

3 **New Dog Signs** – Shane has still not put these up and KT to get them back and RR will put them up.

4 **Quarterly newsletter** – This is sent to all Allotment holders and a copy will be on the new noticeboard at the appropriate time. If anyone has any items, they think should be included to let GS know.

5 **Manure and wood chip for plot holders** – There was a load of manure which went very quickly. GS to see if he can obtain another load in the Spring. KT will speak to Owain about some more wood chippings.

6 **Removal of Conifer Tree** – This has now been removed.

7 **Plot Availability Update** – There are no available plots and there are two people on the waiting list. It was agreed that KT send an email to allotment holders reminding them that they need to give 1 months' notice if they wish to give up a plot. It would be useful so that we have an idea of how many would be becoming free.

### 8 **Applications for consent**

1. **Polytunnel on plot 97**- The Committee gave consent.

2. **Replacement of greenhouse on Plot 33** – The Committee gave consent

3. **Return Shed from Plot 44 to Plot 49** – The Committee gave consent

4. **To put up maximum of 2 beehives up on Plot 33** – It was agreed to ask if any plot holders had any allergies to bees and if so to send medical evidence to KT. It was agreed to defer the decision until we have this information. In principle the Committee were in favour of having some beehives.

5. **Put up Polytunnel on Plot 50** – The Committee gave consent

It was noted that plot holders with polytunnels must have a water butt on their plot and it is advisable that all plot holders should have a water butt. KT will send out an email to allotment holders on this.

## 9. New Allotment Committee Member

**RECOMMENDATION TO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** To appoint Fergus Lapage onto the Allotment Committee

**10. Extension of Water Pipes** – Discussion took place on this and it was said that the problem that already exists is that the further away from the water source the lower the water pressure is so it would not be worth extending the pipes unless a bigger pipe is installed as the existing one is small. It was agreed that in the first instance NS contacts Thames Water.

## 11. Two large Ash trees on the Allotment Land

**RECOMMENDATION TO OPERATIONS COMMITTEE:** That these two trees be added to the Council's Tree Stock and be included in the updating of the 2016 Duty of Care report by CwT

### 05/20 Allotment Finances

#### 1 **Budget Update 2019/2020**

**Resolved:** That the budget update shown below is agreed:

#### 2 **Increase in Allotment Rent for 2020/2021**

**Resolved:** That the rent is increased by £1.00 per allotment holder.

#### 3 **Moving the date when tenancy/payment due** – Discussion took place on this.

**Resolved:** That the Tenancy Agreement date to be moved from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> October. An email will be sent to all Allotment Holders to tell them this. They can either pay 6 months from April to October or 18 months which will take them to 30/9/2021.

KT to check any necessary documentation that needs to be changed.

#### 4. **Any items that need to be purchased**

None.

### 06/20 General Issues

1 **Allotment Private Land Signs** – There are still problems with teenagers coming on to the Allotments. RR will move the signs, so they are more visible.

2. **Communal Shed** – GS said that he thought it would be a good idea to have one where spare seeds, plants, tools etc could be left for other allotmenters. GB said that he already has a shed that he puts in any spare items and plot holders can let him know if they require something. However, it was agreed that a communal shed by the new noticeboard would be a good idea. The shed could have a code lock on it. GB said he has the materials to build one and RR and GS will help with this.

3 **Allotment's for Exercise and Companionship** – GB said that people would be referred by the GP Surgery. NS said she had concerns regarding this as risk assessments, duty of care etc will need to be done and that there could also be a problem with the person as they may be unknown to anyone. She suggested that it would be much better if allotment holders took it upon themselves to take on a known person to them for this as Watlington is a small community and hopefully we should know who we can help.

### 07/20 Maintenance

1. **Paths to be kept clear to full width** – GB said that the track is now much improved from last year.

2. **Hedge between Allotment and Recreation Ground** – GB reported that the recreation ground side needs to have its annual cut. KT will contact Owain Devey. It needs to be kept at a certain height.

### 08/20 Items for Information

1. **Allotment & Leisure Gardener Quarterly Magazine** – Issue 1 2020 and Issue 4 2019 were given to GS and RR to see if any of the information is useful for the newsletters.

09/20 Future Issues for Discussion/Implementation

1. **Rear gates from Love Lane properties to access the allotments** – Situation continues to be monitored. There are 3 properties who have gates to the allotments.

2. **Bi-annual inspections** –One is needed in March 2020. These will be done by GB and GS before the next meeting

10/20 Date of Next Meeting

**Meeting Dates:** 30<sup>th</sup> March and 29<sup>th</sup> June 2020

11/20 Any Other Business

**THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 21.10PM**