

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Allotments Committee on
Monday 14th September at 7:00 pm.**

Present: Cllrs Balsamini, (Chair), Rymer, Catherwood Taylor.
Clerk: Rebecca Hill
Deputy Clerk Ian Orton

Members of the Public: Three plot holders were present.

AC256: Public Participation

An allotment holder pointed out there was inconsistency on the allotments page of the Town Council web site as there were two documents relating to bonfires with slightly different times for bonfires. The clerk indicated the wording would be checked.

AC257: Election of Chair

Cllr Balsamini took the Chair and requested nominations for Chair. Cllr Rymer was nominated by Cllr Taylor and seconded by Cllr Balsamini and unanimously elected Chair of the Allotments Committee. It was agreed Cllr Balsamini would continue in the Chair as Cllr Rymer was having problems with the virtual connection.

AC258: Election of Vice Chair

The clerk stated that the election of the Vice Chair to Chair had created a vacancy for a Vice Chair. Cllr Balsamini asked for nominations for Vice Chair and Cllr David Taylor was unanimously elected as Vice Chair.

AC259: Apologies: To record and approve reasons for absence

RESOLVED: No apologies were received.

AC260: Code of Conduct - Localism Act 2011: To record any Councillor's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in relation to items on this agenda.

No interests were recorded.

AC261: Dog Meadow

a) To receive comments and correspondence from allotment holders

No comments were received.

b) Compost toilet: Update

The deputy clerk explained the Town Council had agreed the use of a compost toilet on the community plot managed by Age UK subject to confirmation of maintenance costs etc. These had been given and the facility was now being used. Most people who had objected had confused a modern compost toilet with a traditional chemical toilet but once the difference was explained had become more supportive.

c) Clearing Plots 11A (2), 13A and 13B

The deputy clerk explained only three plots at Dog Meadow were not let because they needed clearing at a cost of around £250. This would release at least 4 plots producing a rental income of around £128 so the cost of clearing would be recouped in two years.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to authorise the expenditure.

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AC262: Cammock Lane

a) To receive comments and correspondence from allotment holders

No comments were received.

b) To rent out the storage facilities adjacent to Station Road

The deputy clerk explained that the existing storage facilities were not managed and requested that the facilities were upgraded at a cost of around £300 and the facilities were then rented out at a cost of £10 per year. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to agree the expenditure and the rental charge of £10 per year.

c) To cost tree management adjacent to the riverside plots

The deputy clerk gave details of concerns raised by some of the riverside plot holders about tree growth and requested authority to obtain costings for carrying out some maintenance. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to carry out the costing exercise.

AC263: Plot Inspection

The deputy clerk gave details of the plot inspections that were carried out on 7th September 2020. Most plots were cultivating at least 50% of the plots but letters had been sent to a small number of tenants concerning the height of trees and hedges and the use of log burning stoves in a wooden structure. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to note the reporting of the allotment inspections on 7th September 2020.

AC264: Waiting Lists and Vacant Plot

a) To receive an update from the deputy clerk

The deputy clerk confirmed there were 12 people on the waiting list and there were 4 vacant plots on Cammock Lane and 3 vacant plots on Dog Meadow. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to note the waiting list and vacant plots.

b) Review policy on sheds and poly tunnels

In view of changing allotment practices the deputy clerk requested authority to review the existing maximum sizes for sheds and polytunnels. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to authorise a report to the next meeting of the Allotments Committee.

c) Consider creating community tenancies

Two community organisations now rent plots from the Town Council and use the allotment experience to support members of the organisations. As this behaviour is different to a conventional let the deputy clerk requested authority to produce a community allotment tenancy for the Committee to consider. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to agree the production of a draft community allotment tenancy.

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AC265: Financial Update

The Chair asked if the allotments were a self-funded service yet and the deputy clerk confirmed that for 2020-21 there was an anticipated income of £4080 based on all plots being let. The rent for both plots was £2000 per year leaving £1040 per plot to spend on running costs. To date £144 had been spent at Cammock Lane to control rodent infestation. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**: to note the financial update.

AC66: Allotments BBQ Saturday 19th June 2021

The deputy clerk gave details of the 2019 BBQ which was not publicised enough and the 2020 BBQ which was cancelled because of COVID19 and it was hoped a BBQ on 19th June 2021 might be third time lucky.

AC67: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th December 2020 at 7pm