

**Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of Allotments Committee on
Wednesday 17th June at 7:00 pm.**

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

Members of the Public: No members of the public joined the meeting.

The Chair welcomed everyone and explained that Cllr James was unable to attend the meeting and asked for nominations to chair the meeting Cllr Lord seconded by Cllr Rymer nominated Cllr Balsamini who was elected to chair the meeting.

AC241: Public Participation

No members of the public were present but an allotment holder had written in with a number of questions linked to the offer of a free compost toilet.

AC242: Apologies: To record and approve reasons for absence

RESOLVED: Apologies were received from Cllr Catherwood and James

AC243: Election of Vice Chair

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Debbie Rymer as Vice Chair

AC244: 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.

AC245: Dog Meadow

a) To receive comments from allotment holders

The clerk confirmed that a request had been received to extend the drainage within Dog Meadow plots. It was anticipated that the s106 funding from the Brokehole Lane development could be used to complete drainage for the site.

b) Offer of a compost toilet

The clerk explained that Age UK had offered a compost toilet which they would install and maintain at no cost to the Council. The Committee thanked Age UK for the offer and requested more information about the facility and requested the offer was included in the summer newsletter to obtain the views of allotment holders about the proposed facility.

c) Trading from allotments

Cllr Lord gave details of alleged illegal trading from an allotment on Dog Meadow adding that the Committee fully understood that bartering among allotment holders was an established practice but trading surplus produce from allotments was not acceptable. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to confirm that trading from allotments was not acceptable and this was to be included in the summer newsletter.

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17TH June 2020**

AC246: Cammock Lane: To receive comments from plot holders

A plot holder had expressed concern about the lack of work on an adjacent plot; the deputy clerk confirmed that this concern would be passed onto the plot holder and would be observed during plot inspections.

The clerk gave details of a request to keep chickens on one plot and the deputy clerk confirmed that an environmental firm had been engaged to reduce rats on some of the plots. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**: to note the comments.

AC247: Plot Inspection

The deputy clerk explained that because of COVID19 regulations plot inspections that were planned for May and June were postponed. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**: to carry out an initial inspection the week of 6th July with a re-inspection the week of 10th August; the Committee wished to ensure any work to plots that was not up to standard because of COVID19 the Council would be sympathetic and allow time for plots to be brought up to standard.

AC248: Waiting Lists and Vacant Plot

The deputy clerk confirmed there were 14 people from Settle and 6 from Giggleswick on the list and there were no vacant plots on Cammock Lane but 8 plots on Dog Meadow. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**: to note the waiting list and vacant plots and that officers could relet vacant plots while following the COVID19 social distancing regulations.

AC249: Plot Holders who do not reside in Settle

The Committee on 11th December 2019 had requested officers to write to parishes where residents held an allotment plot in Settle requesting £25 per allotment holder towards the running costs of the allotments. Responses had been received from Langcliffe Parish Council who objected to the request to pay the £25 and Giggleswick Parish Council who had deferred considering the issue. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**: to

- *Not to offer plots to non-residents of Settle in future*
- *Allow existing non-residents to retain plots*
- *Write to the relevant parish councils, offering assistance to establish their own allotments*

AC250: To send Plot Holders Annual Charges from April

The deputy clerk explained that when charges were sent out in August plot holders who wished to vacate a plot did not do this until the late autumn when it was difficult to relet a plot. Sending charges out in April would allow plots to be relet within the growing season. After discussion it was **RESOLVED**: to agree charges could be sent out from April of each year.

AC51: Allotment Guidelines: Update

The deputy clerk stated that the allotment guidelines had been updated and the main points would be included within the summer newsletter.

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AC52: 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. The Council may be asked to fund capital projects such as drainage for Dog Meadow or standpipes for Cammock Lane. Cllr Rymer asked when the allotment charges are reviewed with the clerk confirming the charges for 2021-22 would be subject to review and this would be included in the summer newsletter. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** to note the financial update.

AC53: Correspondence

a) Benches on allotments

The clerk said that a comment had been made about benches on allotments. The Committee confirmed there were no issues about benches on allotments, but the Council would continue not allocate grants for individuals or organisations to purchase benches for allotments.

AC54: 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.

AC55: Date of Next Meeting: Monday 14th September 2020 at 7pm

Date and time of the next meeting were agreed subject to COVID19 regulations.