

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

**Monday, 9th December 2019 at 7.00 p.m.
in the Mayor's Parlour, the Town Hall, Kendal**

Committee Membership (6 Members)

Alvin Finch (Chair & Mayor) Michele Miles	Dave Miles (Vice Chair) Stephen Coleman	Giles Archibald Carol Hardy
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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Any member of the public who wishes to ask a question, make representations or present a deputation or petition at this meeting should apply to do so before the commencement of the meeting. Information on how to make the application is available on the Council's Website - <http://www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk/kendal-town-council/statutory-information/guidance-on-public-participation-at-kendal-town-council-meetings/> or by contacting the Town Clerk on 01539 793490.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations by Members and/or co-optees of interests in respect of items on this Agenda

[In accordance with the revised Code of Conduct, Members are required to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs) or Other Registrable interests (ORIs) which have not already been declared in the Council's Register of Interests. Members are reminded that it is a criminal offence not to declare a DPI, either in the Register or at the meeting. In the interests of clarity and transparency, Members may wish to declare any DPI which they have already declared in the Register, as well as any ORI.]

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23RD SEPTEMBER 2019 (ATTACHED) AND MATTERS ARISING (NOT OTHERWISE ON AGENDA)

5. OFFICER PROJECT UPDATE (SEE ATTACHED)

6. PROGRESS REPORT ON RABBITS AT TOWN VIEW (SEE ATTACHED)

7. RINKFIELD PLOT ALLOCATION (SEE ATTACHED)

8. PROMOTING BIODIVERSITY ON ALLOTMENTS (SEE ATTACHED)

9. APPROVAL TO KEEP BEES ON COLEY BARN ALLOTMENTS (SEE ATTACHED)

10. RINKFIELD FENCING

11. ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

- Spring 2020 Edition – deadline 24th January, publication 2nd March
- Summer 2020 Edition – deadline 12th June, publication 20th July

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

12. REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2019/20 (SEE ATTACHED)
13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – MONDAY 23RD MARCH AT 7PM

Janine Holt

Assistant to the Town Clerk

By e-mail/post to: Members of the Committee
 All other Councillors (agenda only, for information)

Please note that only Committee Members will receive the minutes and attachments, but that other Councillors may request a copy of any agenda papers. Any Councillor who is not a Committee Member may still attend the meeting, as an observer.

Members of the Press and Public are welcome to attend the meeting.

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Allotments Committee

**Monday 23rd September 2019 at 7.00 pm
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

PRESENT	Councillors Alvin Finch (Chair & Mayor), Dave Miles (Vice Chair), Giles Archibald, Michele Miles, Stephen Coleman and Carol Hardy
APOLOGIES	None
OFFICERS	Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk), Pierre Labat (Townscape Manager) and Nicky King (Council Secretary)
378/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;">PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</p> <p>None.</p>
379/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;">DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None.</p>
380/19/20	<p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 29TH JULY 2019</p> <p>The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 29th July 2019, which had been approved by full Council on 2nd September 2019.</p>
RESOLVED	That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 th July 2019 be accepted as a correct record.
	<p style="text-align: center;">MATTERS ARISING (Not on Agenda)</p>
381/19/20	<p><u>Minute 245/19/20 – Disposal of Green Waste at Canal Head</u> Janine Holt reported that the disposal of green waste is no longer a problem due to a change in working practice. There is therefore no need to look at alternative arrangements.</p>
382/19/20	<p><u>Minute 247/10/20 – Anti-social behaviour at Castle Haggs</u> Janine Holt advised she had spoken to the Cemeteries Department at SLDC regarding the possibility of moving a bench which was being used to gain access into Castle Haggs extension. She has also written to all allotment holders on Castle Haggs and Canal Head with an update. It was noted that the vandalism problem appears to have subsided.</p>
383/19/20	<p><u>Minute 250/19/20 – Polytunnels</u> An article will be placed in the KTC newsletter regarding KTC policy on poly-tunnels. Janine Holt will ensure tenants who already have poly-tunnels are aware they will need to apply for approval.</p>
384/19/20	<p><u>Minute 257/19/20 – Rabbits at Town View</u> Chris Banks, site rep for Town View, reported that the problem with rabbits still remained. This was acknowledged by Janine Holt who commented that there was a split view about the problem amongst</p>

tenants. It was agreed to discuss this matter further under 'Project Update'.

385/19/20Minute 251/19/20 – Appeal Decision on Refund of Deposit

It was noted that no further correspondence had been received.

386/19/20**PROJECT UPDATE**

Janine Holt presented the Project Update and reported an increase in demand for allotments.

Rabbits on Town View

This problem is still proving to be challenging. Janine Holt explained that the source of the problem is Nobles Rest Park. Whilst some rabbits were locked into the site when fencing was removed to carry out work to the hedge, others are entering the site from Nobles Rest. Janine commented that there is only so much KTC can do and until the source of the problem is eradicated the problem on Town View allotments cannot be resolved. In order to tackle the issue Committee will need to work in partnership with SLDC. Janine has contacted the Parks and Open Spaces team at SLDC and is awaiting a response. A number of allotment holders on Town View are not happy and 2 tenants have left. Invoices are due to be issued shortly, however these plots cannot be let when the produce grown is being eaten by rabbits. The Townscape Manager advised that it was an acute problem which requires professional advice. He was aware of two companies which could be approached, but this is a specialist service and the closest company is in North Yorkshire which would have a cost implication due to travel being required.

Following a general discussion Councillor Archibald proposed that Officers be authorised to seek professional advice. This was seconded by Councillor Finch and carried unanimously.

Unsatisfactory Plots

Councillor Archibald asked for clarification on the procedure for dealing with unsatisfactory plots. Janine advised that two letters are issued to tenants whose plots are not up to standard, with a request that they carry out the necessary improvement work. If they fail to do so a notice to quit is then issued. Janine commented that it is a cumbersome process and it can take some time to remove tenants from sites. Members discussed ways in which the issue could be addressed. It was suggested that developing clear photographic evidence of what is/is not acceptable would be a good idea. This could be published in the newsletter. The involvement of site reps was also raised, however it was noted that some tenants engage with site reps whilst others do not. It was thought people might not always be aware who the site reps are and Councillor Coleman suggested these be published on the KTC website and in the newsletter.

RESOLVED

1. That Officers be authorised to seek professional advice regarding the problem of rabbits at Town View.
2. Photographic evidence of unsatisfactory/satisfactory plots to be gathered and published in the newsletter.

3. Site rep details to be published on the KTC website and in the newsletter.

387/19/20**RINKFIELD FENCING**

Advice from Graham Nicholson of SLDC was that the trees will be felled no later than the last week of September.

The Townscape Manager advised that plot 8 became vacant 3/4 months ago and requires substantial clearing work. A large rotten pigeon shed requires removing which he cannot do alone and he requested approval to pay someone to help him with this item of work. He advised that quotes for the new fencing cannot be obtained until the shed is removed as it is restricting access for contractors.

Councillor Archibald pointed out that approval of this nature can be sought from the Chair/Vice Chair and does not need to await Committee approval.

It was agreed quotes for the fencing will be obtained for the next Committee meeting in December.

RESOLVED

Pierre Labat to obtain quotes for the fencing at Rinkfield for the next meeting in December.

388/19/20**VAN FUEL PURCHASE**

It had been noted by Full Council that van fuel is currently purchased from Lound Road garage. Suggestion was made that this could be obtained cheaper from Morrisons and the Allotments Committee and Kendal in Bloom Committee had been asked to give the suggestion further consideration (as the cost of van is split between these two committees). Following a general discussion Councillor Rowley commented that it was KTC policy to use local companies where possible and also pointed out that it would take longer, and therefore use more fuel, to drive to Morrisons than it would Lound Road. Members agreed van fuel should continue to be purchased from Lound Road.

The Townscape Manager indicated his wish for an electric van. The current van is two years old and therefore not due for replacement, however Committee agreed KTC should be looking to purchase an electric vehicle at the appropriate time. Councillor Rowley pointed out that whilst the purchase price of electric vehicles is higher, running costs are considerably less. Officers will obtain costings for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

1. That van fuel continue to be purchased from Lound Road garage.
2. Janine Holt to obtain costings for a replacement electric KTC van for consideration at the next meeting.

389/19/20**REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO REPLACE PIGEON LOFT – PLOT 18 COOLEY BARN**

Members considered a request for permission to replace an existing pigeon loft with a new 8' x 16' loft. Janine Holt advised that there was sufficient space and no complaints had been received about the pigeons. She commented that it is good practice to advise the other tenants and will make them aware of the request. Councillor Finch proposed that permission be granted subject to no objections being received from other tenants. This was seconded by Councillor Coleman and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED

That approval for a replacement pigeon loft be granted, subject to no objections being received.

390/19/20**DISCUSSION – HOW TO MANAGE ALLOTMENTS IN AN ENVIRONMENTAL WAY**

Councillor Archibald remarked that, like climate change, biodiversity loss was a major issue with 25% of species and 40% of insects at threat of existence. He asked Committee to think specifically about what could be done on allotments to increase biodiversity. He commented that Committee had the opportunity to act as advocates for biodiversity, not just on allotments but in and around Kendal.

Ros Taylor made the point that, whilst SLDC Planning were supportive of her work with Kendal Swifts and the inclusion of swift bricks in developments, she felt more could be done to encourage developers of large sites to look for biodiversity net gain. She suggested KTC Planning Committee could have a role to play in this respect. She also had some thoughts on how KTC could be more environmental in its general planting practice.

Councillor Coleman referred to the suggestion of further engagement with SLDC Planning and said this would require SLDC to amend/implement a planning policy document. The role KTC Planning Committee could undertake would be limited due to the frequency of meetings and volume of work. It was suggested that Ros Taylor liaise with the Chair of KTC Planning Committee to discuss the matter further.

Thinking specifically about increasing biodiversity on allotments, Ros Taylor expressed her view that emphasis is put on plots looking tidy and smart and commented that a culture change would be required. Janine Holt was in agreement and suggested that the Kendal in Bloom competition next year include a new category for the allotment with the best biodiversity.

The large scale of the biodiversity problem was highlighted by Councillor Rowley. He suggested focusing on key aspects and taking one thing at a time, adding that a good starting point would be the use of slug pellets. Janine Holt commented that the only guidelines given to tenants is the tenancy agreement and suggested further work on good practice was necessary.

It was agreed a letter should be issued to SLDC highlighting Committee's concern regarding biodiversity. Janine Holt to draft a letter for consideration by the Chair. It was also suggested that

Committee consider forming a subgroup to consider the subject further.

Master Composters

The Townscape Manager advised that he has completed training to become a Master Composter. He will be displaying a leaflet and setting up a demo site on Sedbergh Road allotments for anybody interested in learning more, schools etc. An article will also be placed in the newsletter.

The Townscape Manager advised that he wished to grow wild flowers on a couple of plots which had not been let for some considerable time. He will discuss the viability of this with Councillor Rowley in respect of the pollinator project.

RESOLVED

1. Janine Holt to draft a letter to SLDC highlighting Committee's concern regarding biodiversity.
2. Committee consider forming a subgroup to consider the subject of biodiversity further.

391/19/20

PROPOSED SITE IMPROVEMENT PAPER

Janine Holt presented an updated version of the Proposed Site Improvement Report which had been considered at the last meeting. The points raised had been addressed, including the implementation of a traffic light system for the overall condition of sites.

Councillor Coleman proposed that Committee concentrate on the three sites highlighted red in the report. As these were large sites a greater number of tenants would stand to benefit from the improvement works. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously. It was agreed Janine Holt will obtain costings for the necessary works to bring these sites up to amber/green for consideration at the next meeting.

Ros Taylor noted reference to tree maintenance work. With the previous discussion regarding biodiversity in mind, she asked whether this would involve chopping trees down. Janine Holt replied that a strategy for tree management was required.

The presence of blue asbestos on Underley Hill was highlighted by Councillor Archibald. Janine Holt advised that she had requested a position statement from the Town Clerk in this respect. The Town Clerk had previously written to SLDC as landowners informing them of the presence of asbestos. The advice received was for no further disturbance of the land. It was not necessary to clean up the land but measures did need to be taken to cordon it off. She suggested Committee ensure the control measures previously installed are still in place and/or could be improved as part of any improvement plan. The asbestos found was brown, not blue. Councillor Archibald will investigate the position further with SLDC and report back to Committee.

RESOLVED

1. Pierre Labat to obtain costings for the works necessary to bring the 3 allotment sites highlighted as red in the Allotment

- Improvement Paper up to standard for consideration at the next meeting.
2. Councillor Archibald to investigate the position regarding asbestos at Underley Hill with SLDC and report back to Committee.

392/19/20**ANNUAL RENT REVIEW**

Last year Committee made a recommendation to Council for a three year rent review as follows:

- Year 1 - increase rent by 1p
- Year 2 - freeze rent
- Year 3 – increase rent by 1p

Members were asked to review the previous recommendation made and decide whether they wished to freeze the rent for this year. Councillor Coleman expressed concerns regarding the budget and the fact that projected costs for next year are not known at this point in time. Councillor Archibald proposed that the rent be frozen, subject to any large increases in budget arising. This was seconded by Councillor M Miles and carried with 1 abstention.

RECOMMENDATION

That the rent be frozen for this year.

393/19/20**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

Spring 2020 edition - general article re allotments (demand, planned improvements etc).

394/19/20**REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2019/20**

Janine Holt presented the Budgetary Control Statement for expenditure to the end of August and highlighted the following:

Vehicle Running Costs

The remaining figure reflects the split with the Kendal in Bloom Committee, which had previously been missed.

Improvements and Developments

Janine to clarify with the Treasurer whether this is required.

Site Maintenance

Remaining balance will be spent by the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED

Janine to clarify with the Treasurer whether Improvements and Developments is required .

395/19/20**2020/21 BUDGET – REVIEW OF BUDGET REQUIREMENTS AND PROPOSALS FOR ONE-OFF DEVELOPMENT FUND BIDS**

Members considered the 2020/21 Budget Proposals report which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Committee did not wish to make any Development Fund proposals or changes to the day to day budget.

396/19/20**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**Noticeboards

At the last meeting Janine Holt had been tasked with obtaining costings for two further noticeboards to be installed at Castle Haggs and Sedbergh Road. The cost was confirmed to be £1,163.40 excluding VAT. These would be the same as the noticeboards installed at Underley Hill and Wattsfield, ie. enclosed boards with keys held by Janine Holt and the site rep.

Members discussed the pros and cons of having the noticeboards. Ros Taylor reported a split view amongst tenants at Wattsfield. There was a feeling that they would get more use if tenants had access in order to display posters etc. Advertisements could then be displayed for surplus produce, items for sale etc. The Townscape Manager advised that the type of board already purchased needed to be kept locked at all times as it is a sealed unit to ensure it is watertight and prevent condensation. Following a general discussion it was agreed to purchase the additional two noticeboards and trial leaving a key accessible for allotments holders. This was proposed by Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Finch and carried unanimously.

Gate at Sedbergh Road

The Townscape Manager reported that the gate at Sedbergh Road allotments was in need of replacing and this was approved by Committee.

Councillor Archibald advised that the Environment Agency, as part of their plans to fell trees, were looking for ways in which wood can be used in an environmentally friendly way. They would be offering wood for use as chippings, sculptures etc. Janine Holt will contact Craig Cowperthwaite.

RESOLVED

That two additional noticeboards be purchased for Castle Haggs and Sedbergh Road. Key to be left accessible for allotment holders' use on a trial period.

397/19/20**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 9th December 2019 at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
386	Project Update	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That Officers be authorised to seek professional advice regarding the problem of rabbits at Town View. Photographic evidence of unsatisfactory/satisfactory plots to be gathered and published in the newsletter. Site rep details to be published on the KTC website and in the newsletter.
387	Rinkfield Fencing	RES	Pierre Labat to obtain quotes for the fencing at Rinkfield for the next meeting in December.
388	Van Fuel Purchase	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> That van fuel continue to be purchased from Lound Road garage. Janine Holt to obtain costings for a replacement electric KTC van for consideration at the next meeting.
389	Request for Permission to Replace Pigeon Loft – Plot 18 Cooley Barn	RES	That approval for a replacement pigeon loft be granted, subject to no objections being received.
390	Discussion – How to Manage Allotments in an Environmental Way	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Janine Holt to draft a letter to SLDC highlighting Committee's concern regarding biodiversity. Committee consider forming a subgroup to consider the subject of biodiversity further.
391	Proposed Site Improvement Paper	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Pierre Labat to obtain costings for the works necessary to bring the 3 allotment sites highlighted as red in the Allotment Improvement Paper up to standard for consideration at the next meeting. Councillor Archibald to investigate the position regarding asbestos at Underley Hill with SLDC and report back to Committee.
392	Annual Rent Review	REC	That the rent be frozen for this year.
394	Review of Spend Against Budget 2019/20	RES	Janine to clarify with the Treasurer whether Improvements and Developments is required.
396	AOB - Noticeboards	RES	That two additional noticeboards be purchased for Castle Haggs and Sedbergh Road. Key to be left accessible for allotment holders' use on a trial period.

Allotments Committee 9th December 2019

Project Update

The main focus of the allotment work over the last quarter has been:

- Maintain the database
- Deal with queries as and when they arise.
- Meet with biodiversity sub group
- Ongoing work with rabbit problem on Town View

Again we have had an increase in demand for allotments this quarter and the waiting list currently stands at 70 which is an increase of 7 from last meeting.

Inspection Visits

Since last meeting, I have undertook site visits on 27.11.2019 and completed them on 2.12.2019.
Please find the summary details below:

Site	Number of Plots	Number of Satisfactory Plots	Number of Unsatisfactory Plots	Vacant Plots
Aynam Road	3	3	0	0
Canal Head	20	17	3	0
Castle Drive	9	9	0	0
Castle Haggs	32	29	3	0
Castle Haggs Ext	47	45	2	0
Coley Barn	44	40	4	0
Crow Tree	24	24	0	0
Greenside	46	46	0	0
Natland Road	19	17	2	0
Rinkfield	31	28	2	1
Sandylands	24	22	1	1
Sedbergh Road	41	40	0	1
Shaws Brow	19	13	6	0
Town View	18	15	1	2
Underley Hill	27	23	3	1
Underley Road	35	34	1	0
Wattsfield	41	41	0	0
Totals	480	446	28	6

I have inputted the inspection details into the database and 28 letters have been sent to the tenants whose plots are currently in an unsatisfactory condition.

Townscape Manager Update

Since the last meeting Pierre has completed the following jobs:

- Routine mowing and strimmer of allotments – last cut end of October
- Set a new gate at Plot 13 Coley Barn
- Setting notice boards at Castle Haggs and Sedbergh Road
- Extensive footpath improvement at Greenside
- Turned water off at the allotments- end of October
- Repaired vandalised gates at Canal Head
- Continuing to investigate rabbit problem at Town View
- Liaised with contractor about installation of fence at Castle haggs ext to help avert the youths entering the allotments
- Arrange repair of wall at Coley Barn

Rinkfield Allotment Improvements

I have spent a lot of time clearing plot 8 in preparation for the tree felling and installation of the fence. The below work has been identified as a priority to bring Rinkfield up to the required standard.

- Extra tree removal. I have liaised with G Nicholson to ensure this tree is ok to remove and he has confirmed it is. Once the other fence line had been cleared it became apparent this extra tree would affect the installation of the fence – cost for removal of the tree £600
- Stone Wall to be repaired – cost £900
- Clearing the soil at the side of the fence by Continental. (No quote yet)
- Skip hire and waste disposal
- Redefine the plots adjacent to the playing field
- Redraft the map
- Install new plot numbers
- Consider new gates

Budget Requests:

Rinkfield Fencing Quotes

3 quotes for consideration for the installation of the fencing from Hanafin, AK Fencing, R Bell Josh

Castle Haggs Extension Fencing

Consider quote for fencing

Shaws Brow Hedge

To reduce the height of the hedge following the renewal of the fence last year.

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

To: Allotments Committee	9 th December 2019
From: Assistant to the Town Clerk	Agenda Item No. 6

Update on Rabbits on Town View Allotments

Following on from last meeting. I requested a site meeting with the original fencing contractor to ascertain his view on why the fence was not providing to be effective.

A meeting was held on Thursday 14th November. The contractor and Pierre viewed the complete fence line. This was helped greatly by the fact the vegetation had died back and the fence was easily accessible.

Two problems have been identified:

- One larger hole is due to sabotage. A clear cut hole with no debris present
- A significant amount of fence has been cut with a strimmer. This has occurred when Maude's Meadow has been maintained by SLDC contractors.

The contractor repaired the fence line on the day of the site visit. I have been informed that the rabbit fence is now secure.

I reported this to SLDC on 18th November. Nicola Metcalfe has spoken with the contractor about this.

To avoid this incident happening again, Pierre will install a small gravel track along the fence line. This will act as a reminder to keep clear of the fence and also help with ongoing maintenance as the fence line will stay clear. Pierre will undertake this work over the next few weeks.

Professional advice has been sought with a company with over 30 years' experience in rural pest control. After consultation, he has advised that a two day clearance would be required as he feels there will also be warrens in that hedgerow as well as on the site.

The cost for a two man team to professionally ferret the allotment and surrounding hedgerows over a two day period would be £1,225. + VAT.

All tenants will be notified before any work takes place.

The work should be completed as soon as possible.

Request for Funding Approval

To consider the funding request of £1225.00 to clear Town View site of rabbits.

Document Available at the Meeting

Report from fencing contractor

Report prepared by Assistant to the Town Clerk – 26th November 2019.

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

To: Allotments Committee	9 th December 2019
From: Assistant to the Town Clerk	Agenda Item No. 7

Allocation of Vacant Plot on Rinkfield Allotments

Background

Each individual site has a waiting list in date order. Vacant plots are allocated as and when they become available to the person on the top of the waiting list. I contact prospective tenants either by email or letter. I allow a two week period for them to contact me about the vacancy. Prospective tenants are offered the next available plot and are not permitted to identify individual plots that they require.

We have an unwritten policy of allowing existing tenants to swap plots to another one on the same site. The reasoning behind this policy is that a plot is being relinquished and does not affect the waiting list. In the past, existing tenants who have expressed a desire to swap plots have taken priority over prospective tenants, especially if there are good reasons.

Vacant Plot

I was approached in early November by the gentleman who is top of the waiting list for Rinkfield allotments. He had been on site and had spoken to an allotment holder who informed him that she would not be renewing her tenancy at the end of year (plot 17). He rang to express his desire for this plot, to discuss the situation and to ascertain my view on existing tenants swapping plots.

I informed him that I was not aware of any vacancies and I explained that existing tenants are allowed to swap plots. He did question the fairness of this approach.

The following day, I was approached by a long-standing tenant (plot 3) who asked if he could swap plots with the vacant plot which he believed was to be relinquished at the end of the year. He explained that he wanted to swap plots due to his deteriorating health and that the plot (plot 17) was a more manageable size. Please note, this tenant manages 2 plots currently. I informed him that I had received no formal notification of the allotment holder relinquishing the plot. I also explained that an interest in that certain plot had been lodged by the person who was top of the waiting list.

A letter was received on 5th November from tenant of plot 17 giving me notice of her intention to not renew the tenancy at the end of the year. She also stated her support for the proposed swap of allotments.

The following week, I was approached again by the gentleman on the top of the waiting list who expressed his desire for plot 17. He highlighted that the location of the plot was ideal as he has mobility issues and the disability access was good. He also requested the Town Council policy on disability access. I explained that I was not aware of a policy document

specific to allotments. At that point I informed him that due to the complex nature of this situation. I was going to refer this matter to the Allotments Committee for a decision.

Both parties have been invited to attend the Committee meeting.

Options for Consideration

- 1. To allow the existing tenant to swap allotments. The relinquished plot (plot 3) to be offered to the next on the waiting list.**
- 2. To not allow the swap of allotment and to offer the vacant plot (plot 17) to the gentleman who is at the top of the waiting list.**

Documents Available at the Meeting:

Letter of notice from the current tenant of plot 17.

Map of Rinkfield allotments, identifying plots 3 and 17.

Report prepared by Assistant to the Town Clerk – 25th November 2019.

Promoting Biodiversity on Allotments in Kendal

More Veg – More Life

‘Working with Nature on Your Allotment’

Background

In the September Allotments Committee meeting it was agreed that we move to a more diverse approach towards allotmententeering. Historically Kendal Town Council has encouraged tidy, traditional looking allotment plots. The Committee acknowledge that this view is probably now outdated and they would like to encourage biodiversity.

To take this agenda forward it was agreed that a working group would meet to discuss how we can promote a more biodiverse approach to allotmententeering.

Working Group Membership

- Councillor Chris Rowley, Member of Council and Site Representative for Underley Road
- Ros Taylor, Site Representative for Wattsfield
- Elizabeth Kelly, Site Representative for Castle Drive
- Janine Holt, Allotments Officer, Kendal Town Council

Aims

- Define biodiversity in relation to allotments
- Develop criteria of the key requirements of a biodiverse allotment
- Include these criteria in a booklet or leaflet for all present and potential allotmententeers
- Promote the criteria to all allotments holders – present and potential
- Encourage and support allotmententeers who would like to move towards developing a biodiverse plot
- Create a demonstration plot to be used as an educational tool for allotment holders and to monitor changes in biodiversity
- The working group to meet on a monthly basis to progress with biodiversity on allotments

The working group will report to the allotment committee at their quarterly meetings

What Is Meant By The Term Biodiversity?

And why does Kendal Allotment Committee now have a Biodiversity Working Group?

Biodiversity is the term that is now routinely used to discuss the vast number and wide variety of organisms in the world, including humankind.

The term was coined by joining the words **biological** meaning relating to life and living processes and **diversity** meaning range, variety, mixture.

The UK is lucky enough to have rich biodiversity, but our modern lifestyles are rapidly threatening much of this natural variety. Land is built on, marshes drained, new species of plants, animals, insects and fishes are introduced to the UK either mistakenly brought in by ships and planes etc. or start to flourish here, as the climate changes take hold.

The good news is that there is much we can do to manage the threats these changes might pose.

It is recognised that keeping an Allotment is at the frontline to maintenance of biodiversity, so if we all pitch in and make slight changes in the way we maintain and manage our plots, not only can we continue to bring home fresh veg for our tea, we can also help to ensure that our grandkids inherit a world that is teeming with biodiverse life and so they can also enjoy keeping an allotment.

Biodiversity versus Neglected Plot

A biodiverse plot is one which is managed and looked after by the allotmenteer to produce healthy vegetables and fruit by encouraging/supporting a multitude of beneficial organisms both below and above ground.

A neglected plot is not being managed.

A Biodiverse Allotment Plot

Soil Preservation –

- Never walk on your fruit and veg growing area, walk on paths between the beds
- Reduce digging and work towards a no dig policy

No use of pesticides or slug pellets

No artificial fertilisers

Compost

Use water butts for rain water collection and watering crops

Use a variety of crops and include some flowers

Use of natural weed suppressant-

- Mulch
- Ground cover

Habitat creation

Promoting Allotment Biodiversity

- The annual allotments newsletter to focus on biodiversity and promote good practice guidelines
- Keep up to date information on the Kendal Town Council website
- Creation of a demonstration biodiverse allotment plot that is run by a variety of volunteers and co-ordinated by the Town Council
- Whilst undertaking site visits consider a more biodiverse approach and move away from the long held traditional view of a ‘tidy’ allotment
- Reinstate the allotments competition with biodiversity at its heart
- Development of a workshop session in March

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

To: Allotments Committee	9 th December 2019
From: Assistant to the Town Clerk	Agenda Item No. 9

APPROAL TO KEEP BEES ON COLEY BARN ALLOTMENTS

We have received another application from a tenant to keep bees on Coley Barn.

Tenants have already been approached and no objections have been received

The local beekeeping association has visited the site and approved the location

The tenant will undergo full training before he purchases the bees

He will work in partnership with the other tenant on Coley Barn who has approval to keep bees

An item for consideration is the amount of hives permitted on one site.

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL - ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENT: EXPENDITURE TO 30 NOVEMBER 2019

2019/20 Approved Budget	Heading	Actual to date	Commitments	Total to date	Budget Remaining
£		£	£	£	£
19,850	Allotments:				
1,000	Staffing	13,233	6,617	19,850	0
1,000	Vehicle Running Costs	1,008	(100)	908	92
1,000	Pest Control	669		669	331
1,000	Waste Removal	809		809	191
6,000	Site Maintenance	3,723	70	3,793	2,207
1,500	Water Charges	1,366		1,366	134
850	Rents Payable	840		840	10
31,200	Total:	21,647	6,587	28,234	2,966
22,262	Receipts:				
	Allotment Rents Receivable	17,131		17,131	5,131
	Action Plan Projects:				
10,000	Improve boundary walls/fences:	0		0	10,000
10,000		0		0	0
73,112	Allotments Fund:				
	Allotments - interest received	731		731	73,843