

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Allotments Committee

**Monday 12th June 2017 at 7.00 pm
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

- PRESENT** Councillors John Veevers, Carol Hardy and Jon Robinson.
- APOLOGIES** Councillors Stephen Coleman, Giles Archibald and Keith Bracey
- OFFICERS** Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk), John Belshaw (Town Handyperson) and Hazel Belshaw (Temporary Council Secretary)
- 067/17/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
None
- 068/17/18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
The Chair, Councillor Veevers, declared an interest in any item relating to the Wattsfield site due to the fact that he holds an allotment tenancy on that site.

Councillor J Robinson, declared an interest in any item relating to the Greenside site due to the fact that he holds an allotment tenancy on that site.

The Town Handyperson declared an interest in any item relating to the Underley Hill site due to the fact that he holds an allotment tenancy on that site.
- 069/17/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH MARCH**

The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March, which had been approved by full Council on 3rd April.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th March be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- 070/17/18 16 Natland Road** (ref minute no 951/16/17)
Janine Holt confirmed she had contacted Simon Lloyds at SLDC Planning with regards to the need for planning permission for a poly tunnel and he thought that planning permission would not be needed due to it being a non permanent structure.
- 071/17/18 Rinkfield Allotments** (ref minute 952/16/17)
Janine confirmed that the clearing work has been completed. She also mentioned that Graham Nicholson had been in touch to make her aware that tree felling along the canal will be happening in due course, which may benefit the Rinkfield site. Councillor J Robinson asked which trees were being removed near the canal path as he was aware that Highways were looking at a knotweed issue there. Janine confirmed that she had not been made told which trees they would be at this stage but would keep the Committee updated. There was then a general discussion around knotweed on/near to sites and

it was felt that it may be something worth highlighting to allotment holders in affected areas.

072/17/18

Review of spend against budget (ref minute 954/16/17)

Janine confirmed that she had spoken with the Treasurer with regards to water bills and they were in hand.

073/17/18

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEETING DATES

The Assistant to the Town Clerk presented the meeting with the review of Terms of Reference and Meeting Dates for 2018.

RESOLVED

That the Terms of Reference and Meeting Dates for 2018 be accepted.

074/17/18

ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

Janine Holt and the Town Handyperson gave an update on all allotment sites. Janine confirmed the waiting list currently stands at 39. There are 9 people waiting for a vacant plot on Greenside and the average wait for this site has now been reduced to 2 years. She confirmed that there have been 27 new tenants since the last meeting and there are 12 vacant plots. She confirmed 4 of those plots are particularly troublesome so is unsure if these will be let.

Janine and the Town Handyperson confirmed a lot of work had been done across all the sites including some work on re-numbering and updating the site maps at Canal Head however the Town Handyperson from now has limited time to spend on project work on allotments due to his commitments to Kendal in Bloom.

Councillor J Robinson asked if it was possible to cover the vacant plots with sheets of black plastic until such a time that work can be completed. The Town Handyperson confirmed some of the plots had been covered although the remaining vacant plots required more clearing work before that could happen.

Councillor Veevers raised his concerns over a fence that had been removed on the Crow Tree site and a hard core base had been put down for a greenhouse. Janine confirmed she will write to the tenants and ask them to re-instate the fence. There was also a discussion around allotments having hard core bases for structures. It was felt that although it is not in tenancy agreements that a hard core base cannot be laid it was felt that this should be highlighted to tenants wanting to erect a structure and mentioned in the Allotments Newsletter.

There was also a discussion on site visits. These had been undertaken by the Town Handyperson but due to staff shortages in the Town Council office Janine had not been able to accompany him. It was also highlighted that the Site Reps had been very useful in raising issues on their sites.

Councillor Veevers asked if the path had been completed on the Canal Head site. Janine confirmed that permission was still needed to complete it and she had not received a response Lambert Smith Hampton but would chase again.

RESOLVED

1. Janine to write to the tenant on Plot 16 Crow Tree to ask them to re-instate the fence
2. A note about not using hard core bases for structures to feature in the Allotments Newsletter
3. Janine to chase permission with regards to the proposed improvements on the path at the Canal Head site

075/17/18

SITE REPS MEETING - FEEDBACK

The Town Handyperson confirmed he had met with four Site Reps at the Greenside site and he had received emails from a further three who were unable to make the meeting. There was a discussion on meeting places and times. The Town Handyperson confirmed that meeting on allotment sites was well received but it was thought that changing the times of meetings to accommodate reps that work full-time would be beneficial.

Shaws Brow

The Site Rep raised an issue with rabbits on the site and was keen to know if people on other sites had problems with rabbits. The Town Handyperson confirmed none has been reported. Councillor J Robinson mentioned that he was talking to a resident on Queens Road and they have a problem with rabbits so it could be a problem generally in that area.

Castle Drive

The Site Rep asked for some improvements to the path between plots 9 & 10 and the Town Handyperson confirmed there was also a short section of the perimeter fence to be sorted and that both jobs were on the list.

Noticeboards and Social Media

There was some talk about having noticeboards on the sites and the Site Rep from Castle Hags Extension had mentioned a Facebook page, which was well received from the other Site Reps. Councillor J Robinson volunteered to start a Facebook group and give other interested people administrator rights so they could keep the pages updated. Although it would not be an official Town Council Allotment Group but information regarding vacant plots could be fed into the group.

RESOLVED

That Councillor J Robinson would create a Facebook Group for Kendal Allotment holders.

076/16/17

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

None

077/17/18

REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2017/18

The financial statement to 31st May 2017 had been circulated to the Committee. Members considered the statement and noted the contents.

RESOLVED

That the statement was noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS**078/17/18**

Janine advised the Members that she was looking for volunteers for Kendal in Bloom Allotment judging. She confirmed that 21 plots had entered and she would also be seeking a volunteer from the Kendal in Bloom Committee. Dates for the judging were to be confirmed. Councillors J Robinson and Veevers would be happy to help if necessary but due to various other commitments asked if it was possible to ask other Members not present at this meeting first.

RESOLVED

Janine to contact all Members of the Committee to check their availability to be a judge.

079/17/18

There was a discussion by Members as to whether a meeting to discuss rent increases on allotment sites could be classed as quorate when 4 of the 6 Members were allotment holders. Janine will seek clarification before the next meeting.

RESOLVED

Janine to seek clarification on rent discussion being carried out by the Committee of which 4 Members are allotment holders.

080/17/18**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 25th September at 7pm.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council

Min	Subject	Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council	
073/17/18	Terms of reference and meeting dates 2018	RES	That the Terms of Reference and Meeting Dates for 2018 be accepted.
074/17/18	Allotments Update	RES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Janine to write to the tenant on Plot 16 Crow Tree to ask them to re-instate the fence 2. A note about not using hard core bases for structures to feature in the Allotments Newsletter 3. Janine to chase permission with regards to the proposed improvements on the path at the Canal Head site
075/17/18	Site Reps Meeting - Feedback	RES	That Councillor J Robinson would create a Facebook Group for Kendal Allotment holders.
078/17/18	AOB – Allotment judges	RES	Janine to contact all Members of the Committee to check their availability to be a judge.
079/17/18	AOB – Rent increase discussion by Allotment Committee Members	RES	Janine to seek clarification on rent discussion being carried out by the Committee of which 4 Members are allotment holders.