

# KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

## Allotments Committee

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.00 pm  
in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Kendal**

- PRESENT** Councillors John Veevers (Chair), Stephen Coleman (Vice Chair), Giles Archibald, Carol Hardy and Jon Robinson.
- APOLOGIES** Councillor Bracey
- OFFICERS** Janine Holt (Assistant to the Town Clerk) and Hazel Belshaw (Temporary Council Secretary)
- 400/17/18 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
None
- 401/17/18 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.  
  
Councillors J Robinson declared an interest in any item relating to the Greenside site due to the fact that he hold an allotment tenancy on that site.  
  
Councillors Coleman, declared an interest in any item relating to the Castle Hags site due to the fact that he holds an allotment tenancy on that site.
- 402/17/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**  
  
The Chairman presented the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June, which had been approved by full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.
- RESOLVED** That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> June be accepted as a correct record.
- MATTERS ARISING** (Not on Agenda)
- 403/17/18 Crow Tree Allotments** (Ref Minute 074/17/18)  
Janine Holt confirmed that the fence on the Crow Tree site has been re-instated.
- 404/17/18 Noticeboards and Social Media** (Ref Minute 075/17/18)  
Councillor J Robinson confirmed a Facebook group had been created. It was not an official KTC group but set up by allotment holders for other allotment holders.  
  
Some ideas of what could be included on the group were discussed by Members:
- Site Rep details, Janine to ask if they are happy to be on there

- Kendal in Bloom results
- Where the sites are and how you register.
- Photo of each site
- Google Earth images
- Site plans

**405/17/18****Allotment Rent** (Ref Minute 079/17/18)

Janine confirmed that advice from the Treasurer was that Members of the Committee that are allotment holders can take part in allotment rent discussions although they cannot vote. Members felt that any decision on allotment rents would then be recommended to Full Council.

**406/17/18****ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

Janine presented her allotments update that had been previously circulated.

**Handyperson Replacement**

She advised that the Town Clerk is working on an advert to replace the Town Handyperson. Following a discussion at Management Committee it was decided to look for one or two part time staff to fill the role.

**Site Visits**

She confirmed that following her site visits on 6<sup>th</sup> September she is aware of 64 plots that need attention and she has sent letters out to all of the allotment holders of these plots. Site visits for October and November are in the diary.

**Site Maintenance**

Janine confirmed that in the interim period, before a new Handyperson is appointed that John Belshaw is contracted for 16 hours a week to help with site maintenance. Members discussed various outstanding jobs.

There was a discussion by Members as to the amount of fencing work that is required on various allotment sites. Councillor Coleman suggested that the Committee recommend a Development fund proposal to improve boundary fences on various sites.

**Canal Head, footpath improvements**

Councillor Veevers confirmed that money for the footpath improvements is coming from the Environment & Highways budget. This should be high priority. Janine to consult with the contractor.

**Town View, main track and side path improvements**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Greenside unstable section of boundary wall**

Janine to consult with a contractor. Members also discussed using some of the waste disposal budget for a skip to be placed on the site so allotment holders are able to remove rock and stone from

their site. Janine to liaise with the allotment holders as to when this would happen.

**Greenside, path improvements**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Sandylands, clearing problem plots**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Rinkfield, fencing along canal boundary**

Utilise funds from the aforementioned fencing project proposal allocated from the development fund, if granted, to pay the contractor to complete the fence work.

**Castle Drive, short section of fence at entrance**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Underley Road, re-instate paths at the rear of the site**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Crow Tree, raise fence height**

Include in the fencing project proposal.

**Castle Haggs, replace fencing adjacent to Fletcher Park**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Sandylands, extra tap at the top of the site**

Wait for the new Town Handyperson to be in post before work is carried out.

**Underley Hill, walling**

Leave for the time being.

Janine advised that after visiting Shaws Brow she is aware that a section of the boundary fence would need replacing to help with the amount of rabbits that are getting on to the site.

Councillor Coleman asked if Janine could create a spreadsheet showing the work carried out on the different sites throughout the year and to show how much money has been spent on them.

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman to recommend a Development fund fencing project proposal for £10,000 for improving boundary fences on allotment sites. This was seconded by Councillor Archibald and carried unanimously.

**RECOMMENDATION** The Committee recommend a Development fund bid of £10,000 to pay for boundary fence improvements on allotment sites.

**407/17/18****ALLOTMENTS RENT REVIEW**

Councillor Veevers presented the allotment rent review from the Treasurer that had been previously circulated. He advised Members that he felt it was unfair for an allotment rent increase due to the lack of work carried out on allotment sites this year. Over the summer the Town Handyperson's time had been taken up following issues that arose with the new contractor for the civic planting and due to Janine covering two roles in the office the site inspections had not been carried out. Therefore he felt that allotment holders had not had value for money.

Councillor Archibald commented that bearing in mind Councillor Veevers thoughts he felt that an inflationary rise of 1p per square metre would be fair.

Councillor J Robinson highlighted that the issues with the civic planting had been over a short period of time and more work had been done by the Handyman this year than in the past. Therefore he felt a rent increase was justified.

There was a discussion by Members that the annual 5% increase that was agreed by Council in 2012 should be rescinded. There was also a discussion around the water bills for sites and Councillor Veevers highlighted his previous thoughts of installing push button taps. Janine confirmed that the Treasurer is currently doing some work on the water charges for the different sites.

It was proposed by Councillor Coleman to increase the allotment rent by 1p per square metre. This was seconded by Councillor J Robinson with 2 against.

**RECOMMENDATION** That the Committee recommend a 1p increase for square metre for allotment sites.

**408/17/18****2018/19 BUDGET PROPOSALS REPORT**

Members discussed the 2018/19 Budget Proposal that had been previously circulated.

Members approved the report and confirmed their earlier recommendation of a Development fund bid of £10,000 to improve boundary fences on various sites

**RECOMMENDATION** The Committee recommend a Development fund bid of £10,000 to pay for boundary fence improvements on allotment sites.

**409/16/17****ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

- Facebook page
- Allotment availability

Janine also confirmed she was putting together an Allotments newsletter and would mention hoses and hard standing bases and the allotment availability.

**410/17/18****REVIEW OF SPEND AGAINST BUDGET 2017/18**

Councillor Archibald asked if there is there a demand for allotments and would KTC consider buying another patch of land from the money in the budget.

Councillor Veevers confirmed that some time ago the Committee had decided to ring-fence the money in case an appropriate site was found.

Councillor J Robinson commented that an area near to Kendal Parks would be ideal for a new site.

It was felt that the Allotment Fund title in the budget should read Allotment Fund: New site and development. Also that the money needs protecting due to the amount of housing development in Kendal.

Councillor Coleman asked if the waste removal budget of £500 could be used for the hire of the skip on Greenside.

**RESOLVED**

That the review of spend against budget 2017/18 was noted.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS****411/17/18**

Janine confirmed that after numerous problems on plots 20 and 21 of Canal Head she was pleased to report that someone had been prosecuted after being caught on CCTV. The problems now seem to have stopped.

**412/17/18**

Janine also confirmed she has had numerous complaints regarding dog fouling on Canal Head and Castle Hags. She has spoken to John Barwise from SLDC who is aware of the problem and will put signs up.

**413/17/18****DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

**Summary of Information, Resolutions and Recommendations to Council**

<b>Min</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Information/Resolution/Recommendation to Council</b>	
<b>406/17/18</b>	Allotments Update	<b>REC</b>	The Committee recommend a Development fund bid of £10,000 to pay for boundary fence improvements on allotment sites.
<b>407/17/18</b>	Allotments rent review	<b>REC</b>	That the Committee recommend a 1p increase for square metre for allotment sites.
<b>408/17/18</b>	2018/19 Budget Proposals Report	<b>REC</b>	As above: The Committee recommend a Development fund bid of £10,000 to pay for boundary fence improvements on allotment sites.