

Kendal Town Council

Town Hall, Highgate, Kendal LA9 4ED
www.kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee meeting held on Monday, 29 November 2021 at Mintworks, Kendal, 7.00 pm.

Cllr G Archibald (Vice Chair)	Present	Cllr C Hardy	Absent
Cllr S Coleman	Present	Cllr D Miles	Present
Cllr A Finch (Chair)	Present		

In attendance: Chris Bagshaw (Town Clerk), Ian Gordon (Democratic Services Assistant), Janine Holt (Council Services Officer), Pierre Labat, (Townscape Officer). Paul Casson (Allotment Holder)

Site Representatives also in Attendance:

Councillor Chris Rowley	Underlay Road
Ros Taylor	Wattsfield
Deborah Allison	Canal Head
Paul Huggonson	Sedbergh Road

A15/21/22 Apologies

None

A16/21/22 Declarations of Interest

None

A17/21/22 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

No issues were considered for exclusion.

A18/21/22 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Committee received the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 September 2021

Resolved: To accept them as a true record.

A19/21/22 Waste in Wellbeing. The working group received a verbal report on the use of allotment surplus and how it may be used as a contribution towards waste into wellbeing. In some cases, allotment holders limit their production as waste is an unwelcome by-product. It was felt that more information was needed to disseminate information about waste into wellbeing which could be via allotment representatives or new appointees. Also suggested a collection site on each allotment area would be advantageous to promote the idea.

Resolved: To gather views from Allotments via representatives on the feasibility of a scheme to produce and/or distribute excess food beyond the needs of the allotment owners and to check the legal status. Agreed to report back to the next meeting.

A20/21/22 Review of Spend against Budget

The Committee considered the report. A councillor asked that the budget report show an additional column identifying committed and anticipated spend broken down by topic/area. A question was asked if the impact of Storm Arwen on Friday 26 November necessitates a request for additional funding from the reserve funds to pay for clearing fallen trees. The Townscape Officer indicated an additional £2,000 could be needed.

Resolved: To accept the report

Resolved: To add an additional column to the 'Spend against Budget' report itemising any remaining budget committed to the year end. This column would be added after the 'Actual Spend To-date' and 'Remaining Budget'.

Resolved: To request up to £2,000 from full councils reserves to support additional tree work if needed arising from Storm Arwen.

A21/21/22 Site Representatives

The committee chair raised concerns about the sporadic input of some site representatives in the committee meetings. To address this concern, it was agreed to re-establish the more informal site representative meetings. An update report will be received at each committee meeting. The Vice-Chair asked if site reps could be notified in advance of any items that directly impact their allotment over and above notification in the agenda.

Resolved: To re-establish the site representatives meetings and to inform the site representatives if there are any items on the agenda relating to their particular sites.

A22/21/22 Canal Head Update

The Committee considered a report exploring the options extending the number of allotments at Canal Head. The Townscape Officer presented the amended proposal for the creation of 22 plots on site which included costings. The main feature of this proposal was that the ground work would not be undertaken and the tree roots left in situ. The Councillors discussed the merit of this approach and opinion was split. It was agreed that further professional advice should be sought and detailed costings be submitted for approval to the Chair and Vice Chair. It was noted that there would be no vehicular access in this updated scheme. To move this project forward, the Vice Chair proposed requesting a budget of £30,000 be allocated that would incorporate the removal of tree stumps and production of the maximum number of quality new sites. A councillor was concerned that there was an incomplete report making it very difficult for councillors to decide.

Resolved: To request a budget of £30,000

A23/21/22 Coley Barn Improvement Works

The committee considered a report on improving the unsecured soil between plots 9 and 10 with the installation of four gabion baskets.

Resolved: To approve the cost of £636 + VAT for the improvement on Coley Barn.

A24/21/22 Wattsfield Fence Quotes

The committee considered a written report tabled by the Council Services Officer identifying costings to improve rabbit proof fencing work at Wattsfield. Three contractors have submitted quotes. Quote 1 £2,508 + VAT, Quote 2 £3,240 + VAT, Quote 3 £1,300 + VAT. Quote 3 recommended retaining the existing gates and the Committee were satisfied that this would still provide protection against rabbits.

Resolved: To accept quote 3 at £1,300 + VAT and instruct the Council Services Officer to authorise this work to be started.

A25/21/22 Project Updates

The Committee considered the report from the Council Services Officer on project updates including a waiting list update and asbestos on Underley Allotments. The Council Services Officer also reported that annual invoices and allotment newsletter will be sent out next week. In addition, The Council Services Officer reported on discussions with SLDC on a rabbit suppression strategy. SLDC now have a small budget and are being more open to helping eradication of rabbits on allotments owned by SLDC.

A councillor asked for an update on any progress on identifying those sites where excessive use of water is a problem and the plan to use water butts. No progress has been made yet. Proposed using any residual to produce any additional notice boards subject to not overspending.

Resolved: To appoint a specialist asbestos company to investigate the allotment land at Underley.

A26/21/22 Budget 2022-23. The Committee considered the draft budget for 2022-23. The committee requested increasing the pest control budget by £500 to £3,500. The Vice-Chair sought clarification on the use of reserves. Councillors believed reserves could only be used to purchase new allotments and pay for substantial improvements that otherwise would not have been funded through the normal revenue budget.

Resolved: To accept the budget with an increase in pest control to £3,500.

The meeting closed at 20.51