



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee
held at Hutton House, Durham Road, Chilton, County Durham, on
Thursday 23rd May 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: *Councillor D. Allanson.*

Present: *Councillors E. Bruce, A. Bruce, P. Davies.*

In attendance: Mr. J. Robinson, Acting Town Clerk.

Members of the public: *6 members of the public.*

1.0/19. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: To accept apologies and reasons for absence from Councillor's; M. Young, J. Parker, J. Houlihan.

2.0/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. E. Bruce by virtue husband is an allotment tenant, Cllr. A. Bruce allotment holder.

3.0/19. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

None.

4.0/19. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Acting Clerk advised at the recent Annual meeting of the Council, Cllr. D. Allanson was re-elected as Chairman of the Allotment Committee and Cllr. P. Davies re-elected as Vice Chairman. The meeting congratulated both members on their re-appointment

The Chairman advised the issues he wished to raise are covered by the Agenda. He did advise however, of an issue with a recently allocated allotment where anti-social behaviour type issues had been reported. He had referred the matter to the police for advice. He expressed disappointment that those allotment holders who had complained to him when asked to make a statement of support declined. This resulted in the police being unable to proceed any further. The Council will however monitor the situation. He also advised he had reported the 6 break ins at allotments to the police. He advised members he is, in the light of the above, proposing to the next Full Council residency criteria within the Town to be raised to a year before being eligible for an allotment tenancy.

5.0/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18^t APRIL 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18th April 2019 had been approved as a correct record and signed at the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 14th May 2019.

6.0/19 MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising covered by the agenda.

7.0/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tenant's present raised the following issues and actions agreed:-

- a. The water tap on Prospect Terrace had been left on and a tenant stated he regularly had to turn it off. Tenants present agreed to remind colleagues of the need to ensure tap is switched off.
- b. Tenants suggested the recent numbering of allotments had resulted in wrong numbering. The Chairman and Vice Chairman who had undertaken the exercise agreed to re-visit and rectify if required
- c. Concern was expressed at the cost to re-instate this allotment and also young children are congregating in the sheds. Agreed Acting Clerk chase up the environmental contractor to finish the clear up and allow it to be allocated.
- d. Tenants asked if consideration could be given to provide skips on the sites to allow for clean up of windows/wood etc

8.0/19 BOND

Cllr. E.Bruce suggested a way to stop exiting tenants leaving allotments in an unacceptable state is to charge all new tenants a £100 bond, returned to allotment tenant on an exit visit agreeing plot is acceptable. Members present along with members of the public expressed concern at the amount and if residents could afford this as well as 2 years rent upfront. It was agreed the matter be referred to the Full Council for consideration.

9.0/19 ALLOTMENT INSPECTION

Cllr. P.Davies reported on a recent inspection he and Cllr. D.Allanson had undertaken. They had found a number of excellent allotments, but 29 plots needed a letter asking them to improve the site as soon as possible. Thus, is broken down to 16 letters for Prospect Terrace/Hambleton Way and 13 for West Chilton Terrace.

10/19 WAITING LIST

Members approved the allocation of the following vacant allotments,
AG to be allocated 67 Prospect Terrace
PC allocated 74 Prospect Terrace
AS to be allocated 76 Prospect Terrace AFTER exit inspection by Chairman/Vice Chairman

The Acting Clerk advised the Office Manager, Mrs. V.Nelson had reported 5 tenants had not renewed their tenancy to date. This is to be chased up and a final reminder letter to be sent.

11/19 MAINTENANCE:

Acting Clerk advised Council are out to tender for the provision of the remaining fencing. In regard to height of fencing, no minute can be found as to a firm decision made between 4

or 6 feet. Matter to be placed on June Council Agenda. Following concern expressed by tenants at the meeting Chair/Vice Chair to inspect top of Prospect terrace and report back to June meeting.

12/19 CORRESPONDENCE

The following requests were agreed:-

AB surrendering his tenancy of 76 Prospect Terrace, Chair/Vice Chair to inspect prior to surrender.

DM advising due to anti-social behaviour on their site are installing CCTV. Matter to be monitored.

13/19 BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT/GARDEN

To take place in July, application forms to be advertised early June.

14/19 NEXT MEETING

To be held on Thursday 20th June at 10.30pm in Hutton House.

The meeting closed at 12.14pm

Signed:-

Mayor of Chilton
11th June 2019