



# CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee**  
held at Hutton House, Durham Road, Chilton, County Durham, on  
Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

**Chairman:** *Councillor D. Allanson.*

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

**In attendance:**

**Members of the public:** *3 members of the public.*

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## 15.0/19. APOLOGIES

**RESOLVED:** No apologies submitted.

## 16.0/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

## 17.0/19. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

None.

## 18.0/19. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

He advised both he and Cllr. P. Davies had continued annual inspections and found a further 39 allotments were not up to standard. Letters are to be sent to all tenants. Northern Allotment Association have been and measured all allotments, the result of which is due shortly. Following this Council will determine the way forward. Tenants will be consulted throughout the process. He also advised of several allotments where dumping of sofas etc have occurred, again this is being followed up, and if it is found to be allotment holders then the Policy will be put into place. Cllr. Bruce expressed the wish that if a tenant is identified then 'they should be made an example of to prevent further dumping'

## 19.0/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>rd</sup> MAY 2019

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 had been approved as a correct record and signed at the ordinary meeting of the Council held on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

## 20.0/19 MATTERS ARISING

All matters arising covered by the Agenda items.

## **21.0/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Tenants present raised the following issues and actions agreed:-

- a) Various tenants expressed concern regarding dumping and the removal of rubbish.
- b) Asbestos across allotments, matter to be looked into.

## **22.0/19 REPORT FROM TOWN COUNCIL**

The Chairman advised at the full Council meeting in June members agreed to introduce a bond for all new allotment holders, at a figure of £50. They will still have to pay 2 years rent upfront. ALL allotments will be brought up to standard by the Council and a photograph taken of the allotment before it is allocated. This will remain on file and if the tenant relinquishes the plot it will be expected to be brought up to the standard as when let. Council also confirmed the 6-month residency is to remain.

Members are checking records to confirm the decision to reduce fencing size to 4 feet, but consideration being given to Hambleton Way being 6 foot for security reasons only. Matter to be confirmed shortly.

A review of Tenancy Agreement to be undertaken to reflect these changes and also size measurements.

## **23.0/18 WATER**

Council to continue monitoring water readings on a monthly basis. Water Board have removed stop tap at plot 99. A major review of water costs to take place once water switched off in October. Matter to be placed on November agenda.

## **24.0/19 WAITING LIST**

No allocation of allotments to take place till all brought up to date and photographs taken. Then Office Manager/Acting Clerk will allocate to next on list

Members of the public were asked to leave due to confidential nature of business.

## **25.0/19 INSPECTIONS**

The Chairman reported on the response from tenants who had received improvement notices following the last inspection. Letters had also been sent to those allotments in excellent condition, this had been well received.

A letter was considered from a tenant who had received an improvement notice.

Cllr. E.Bruce left the meeting whilst this matter was considered.

The tenant requested additional time to improve the plot due to family and health issues. Members considered the request but resolved no extension to be given and a letter to be sent to tenant advising the 28-day notice stands.

Cllr. E.Bruce re-joined the meeting.

The Chairman advised 1 plot still remains in a dreadful state, despite several attempts by Committee to have it improved and brought up to standard. Members resolved to refer this plot to Full Council for consideration of instigating eviction.

Second reminder letter to go to those who have still to bring allotments up to standard that if they fail to do this within 28 days eviction will be considered.

**26.0/19 BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT/GARDEN**

To take place in August, Chair/Vice Chair of Allotments and Mayor to judge.

**27.0/19 NEXT MEETING**

To be held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30pm in Hutton House.

The meeting closed at 11.14pm

Signed:-

Mayor of Chilton  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2019