



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Committee
held at Hutton House, Durham Road, Chilton, County Durham, on
Thursday 19th September 2019 at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: *Councillor D. Allanson.*

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

In attendance: Mr. J. Robinson, Acting Clerk. Mrs. V. Nelson Office Manager

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

28.0/19. APOLOGIES

RESOLVED: members of the public, Ms. P. Herbert, Mr. M. Reay

29.0/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

30.0/19. MEMBERS' DISPENSATION

None.

31.0/19. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

He advised he had no formal report but he would refer to specific issues on the agenda. However he did advise the Council will be holding the Best Allotment Competition in 2020 and he personally presented trophies to the Council for this. Members thanked him for his generous offer.

32.0/19 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18th JULY 2019

There were no minutes available as the meeting did not take place as not quorate.

33.0/19 MATTERS ARISING

Nil

34.0/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Tenants present raised the following issues and actions agreed:-

A. One tenant advised he was representing many tenants on his site asking that in 2020 Council add £3 to the rent to enable tenants to become full individual members of the National Allotment Association. Acting Clerk advised the Council are already members of both the National and Regional Associations. Clearly if the membership of all tenants was implemented it would mean extra work for Council staff in application/renewal process. Chairman advised the matter would be referred to Council via these minutes to consider.

b. Discussion took place regarding the fencing on Hambleton Way site.

c. a mixed response from support to concern by tenants in regards to keeping bees on allotments.

35.0/19 BEE KEEPING

The Chairman advised the Council had received an application from a tenant to keep bees. Acting Clerk had undertaken research and obtained rules in regards to same. Fishburn Bee Keeping Society have agreed to attend the October meeting to discuss same.

36.0/18 WATER

Council continue to monitor usage on a monthly basis and readings to be sent to NWA. The Council are in accordance with letting policy turning off the water on all sites on 1st October 2019. Some concern was expressed over the NWA response to meter monitoring of one allotment area. Clerk to raise same with NWA.

37.0/19 ALLOTMENT MEASURING

Cllr. P.Davies gave an update on the project. 3 allotments still need their measurement confirming and then a full report will be presented to the November Allotment Committee. ALL Councillors will be invited to this meeting due to the nature of the report presentation.

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

38.0/19 INSPECTIONS

The Chairman reported on current issues in regards to allotment inspections. Most of those who had received improvement notices had complied. Both Cllr. D.Allanson and Cllr. P.Davies are to re-inspect the allotments over the coming month.

One tenant had requested a meeting with the Chairman and Vice Chairman to discuss their improvement notice. The tenant was unable to attend due to health reasons but a relative had attended on their behalf. The meeting centred on the state of the allotment and need for improvement. Members acknowledged the health of the tenant, but the tenant's representative advised work would happen to improve the allotment and bring it up to standard. Since this meeting both Chairman and Vice Chairman have inspected the allotment and reported to the meeting no improvement had taken place and indeed a cooker has been deposited on the site. Members agreed to refer this matter to full Council for consideration at the October meeting with a recommendation that the tenancy be terminated. Cllr. E.Bruce asked it be minuted that she took no part in this matter.

Members considered complaints made by a tenant in respect of one allotment. It was noted that infect the tenant was responsible for the adjoining allotment and therefore the one believed to be his, it was agreed to declare void. Chairman and Vice Chairman to inspect the area and report back to the October meeting.

39.0/19 FENCING HAMBELTON WAY

Cllr. P.Davies presented a report on his recent inspection of the fencing. He believed instead of full replacement fencing could be repaired on an individual allotment basis and only mass renewal of posts needed. It was agreed Clerk to obtain quote from SE Landscaping for the provision of relevant posts/fencing. Cllr. P.Davies advised he had spoken to tenants who had agreed to undertake the work themselves.

40.0/19 ALLOTMENT ALLOCATION

Members agreed to tenancy applications as per policy. Members also agreed that the new tenant of plot 76 to be given 1 years free rent due to state of allotment on acceptance.

41.0/19 NEXT MEETING

To be held on Thursday 17th October at 10.30pm in Hutton House.

The meeting closed at 12.14pm

Signed:-

Mayor of Chilton
8th October 2019