



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Chilton Town Council Allotment Committee
held at Hutton House, Chilton, County Durham, on
Tuesday 28th September 2021

Chairman: *Councillor E.Bruce*

Present: *P.Davies, P.Malpas, V.Collinson, A.Bruce, L.Rundle*

In attendance: J.Robinson (Acting Town Clerk), A.Hall (Finance/Admin Officer)

Members of the public: *2 members of the public*

ALL36.0.0/21. APOLOGIES

Cllr. M.Young, S.Sutherland, K.Hornsby.

ALL37.0/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr.E.Bruce (husband tenant of an allotment), Cllr. A.Bruce (allotment tenant)

ALL38.0/21. MEMBER DISPENSATION

None.

ALL39.0/21 TENANT PARTICIPATION

Items raised included:-

- a. The problem of rats on WCT site
- b. Confirmation that water is to be switched off in October.

ALL40.0/21 REPORT ON CURRENT TENANCY ISSUES

Officers presented a written report on current tenancy issues. 2 tenants still have to pay this years rent, letters have been sent. A number of sites have been offered to those on the waiting list, but a number have been refused due to current stae. It was agreed the Clerk obtain costs to repair/upgrade them to a standard to allow them to be let. In regards to those where prospective tenants have requested support to improve before accepting it was agreed to either provide a skip on one occasion and others to offer 1/2 years free rent as in the past. Clerk, to present a further report to the October meeting.

ALL41.0/21 RATS ON SITE

Officers advised members that a member of the public had complained to DCC Environmental Health who had visited the site and offered to provide an annual service to deal with the issue. To date the cost has not been provided, agreed to follow up. DCC had also advised a fence is required between Keates Road and the allotments. Clerk to write to LIVIN requesting a meeting to discuss same, however members present felt this will not resolve the situation.

ALL42.0/21 WATER

It was agreed, as per Policy, to switch off all water to allotment sites from 1st October 2021 and open them March 2022

ALL43.0/21 INSPECTION PROCESS

Acting Town Clerk advised that the previous Town Clerk had requested North East Allotment Association to inspect all allotments. He had halted this process and requested from them a tender submission on the proposed process and cost of this service. This had now been prepared. It was agreed to circulate the document and discuss at the next meeting in October.

ALL44.0/21 CONSULTATION EVENTS

Acting Town Clerk advised all allotment holders will be invited to one of 4 meetings to discuss the issues/concerns from each site. It is hoped from these events a 4 year strategy for the management of the allotments can be agreed by Council. It was agreed any member of the Council to attend if they so wished.

ALL45.0/21 PLAYGROUND REPORT

Members considered the monthly DCC report on the Playgrounds. Acting Clerk advised he had requested under delegated Health and Safety powers DCC to undertake all repairs highlighted as amber. Members endorsed this action.

ALL46.0/21 SECTION 106 BID

Acting Town Clerk reported on a meeting he had with Head of Playgrounds DCC in regards to the 106 bid, which included increasing the bid to cover the Skatepark repairs. It was agreed to discuss further at the October monthly meeting.

ALL 47.0/21 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Cllr. E. Bruce proposed and Cllr. P. Malpass seconded, and carried, that under Paragraph 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act of 1960 that the public and press be excluded for the remainder of the meeting.

ALL34.0/21 TENANCY RELATED MATTERS

It was agreed to accept the report presented by the Acting Town Clerk and Finance/Admin Officer and to allocate allotments to all on the current waiting list, who have submitted a formal application form, and they have lived in the Parish for at least 12 months as per Allocation Policy. Members also agreed to 5 tenants receiving 14 day notice to improve site in accordance with Council Policy on Allotment Termination.

Remaining un-occupied plots to be inspected by Chairman and a committee member.

ALL18.0/21 NEXT MEETING

To be held on Tuesday 26th October 2021 Hutton House Chilton at 6.00pm.

Signed:-

Mayor of Chilton
12th October 2021