

Minutes of ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE Meeting of 25th April 2024 at 7.00pm at
Euxton Allotment Site Office

Councillors present: Cllr E Jones (Chair)
Cllr D Rigg
Cllr K Reed

Officers present: A Mayoh L Hardman
Members of the public 2

1. Apologies Cllr S Hoyle
2. Minutes of the meeting held 14th March 2024.

Resolved: Notes (in Quorate) of the Allotment Committee held on 14th March 2024 were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Public participation

A question was raised re the date of closing the compost bays. The cost and regularity of emptying the bays was discussed. A decision was made to reopen the compost bays until the end of May to enable plot holders to dispose of any green waste and a decision will be made with a view to reopening them in the Autumn for a one month period.

A further question was raised regarding the area at the end of the bays where plot holders leave items they no longer require which may be useful to others. The Allotment Officer advised that it was not a designated recycling/swap area and rubbish is being left which then has to be disposed of. A system is therefore now in place for plot holders to keep any unwanted items on their own plot which they can advertise on the WhatsApp or Facebook groups for the use of others. Cllr Jones requested that enquiries be made with CBC to enquire if a Recycling Bin can be provided for the allotment site – ongoing.

4. Bee Project

Cllr Jones advised that there is currently nowhere suitable on the allotment site to place hives without causing inconvenience to members of the public. Access is required to the orchard area for contractors and machinery when work is being carried out on site. The decision was made by the Committee to discontinue the bee project with a view to revisiting it in the future.

5. Site Reports and Considerations

Footpaths

The contractor has been on site and recommended the stones be raked to the middle of the footpaths to level it out however this has caused issues for some plot holders. Cllr Jones advised that the Allotment Officer should continue to level out the required areas but leave any stones that have been moved to the sides in place. Agreed to obtain 800kg bag of stones to keep on site for Allotment Officer and Apprentice to maintain the footpaths. Cllr Rigg stated that this is an issue which will remain under review – ongoing.

Drainage

Update on enquiries by Clerk to identify the water source. Cllr Jones advised that the matter can be put on hold at present as the issue is being managed and the contractor will continue to come onto the allotment site to clear the ditch to help alleviate any problems.

6. Plot Reports and Considerations

The Committee resolved to exclude public and press for item 6. This item was therefore moved to the bottom of the Agenda.

7. Election of Vice Chairman for Allotment Committee – Cllr Jones advised that the election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be decided at the Full Council meeting on 16th May 2024.

8. RHS It's your Neighbourhood (IYN) Entry 2024 – Application has been submitted and received, we will be notified in due course of the dates for judging (possibly June or July 2024).

9. Allotment Society - The Minutes from the rescheduled Allotment Society Meeting on 14th January 2024 were not received and there was no meeting last month. A meeting is planned for 12th May 2024. The planters for the site borders have been ordered by the Clerk and Society members are pricing up the cost of plants. Cllr Jones stated that the Committee will contribute to the cost of the flowers and they will be planted by the Allotment Officer and the Apprentice.

10. Any other items which need attention or research – Committee discussed a self-funding plan for the allotment site. The Treasurer of the Allotment Society is having difficulty opening an account with banks or building societies, therefore a Credit Union may be another option. Enquiries to be made – ongoing.

11. Set date for next meeting

The next meeting will be set after the Full Council meeting on 16th May 2024 when the elections of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be carried out.

Meeting Concluded at 1945 hours.

Council resolved to exclude public and press from Item 6 – Meeting reopened at 1950 hours.

6. Plot Reports and Considerations

Inspection Reports Update – the Allotment Officer reported that 13 plots need improvement but inclement weather has been an issue, will be reinspected after the bank holiday weekend. An item is to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting re the clearance of plots when plot holders leave the site.

Changeover of Plots – The Committee decided that changing or swapping plots on the Allotment site will not be permitted. Allotment Agreement document to be updated. There are currently 27 people on the waiting list and one available plot at this time.

Compost Bays – discussed at Point 3

Tyre Disposal – to be placed on Agenda for the next meeting.

Meeting closed at 2020 hours.