



WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Court House
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WARWICK
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Jayne Topham
Town Clerk

ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF THE MEETING – 20th JULY 2020

Present: Committee Membership:

Councillor M Ashford
Councillor Mrs L Butler
Councillor N Butler (Chair)
Councillor S Cross
Councillor D Skinner
Councillor T Morris

Co-opted Members:

Cliff Wiggins (Railway side), Abbas Abbas (PEAS) & Liz Healey.

426. Apologies. Apologies were given from John Owen, Alan Will and John Hinks.

It was resolved to accept their apologies.

The Town Clerk is on annual leave, Liz Healey acted as Clerk.

Cllr. Martyn Ashford handed over the Chair to Cllr. Noel Butler

427. Declarations or Personal and Prejudicial Interests

None

428. Minutes of the committee meeting and AGM held on 3rd February 2020

Matters arising.

294. Work to the access road has not been actioned, to remain on the agenda.

295. Councillor Ashford - To pursue river dredging at the Percy Estate.

296. Due to Covid19 a meeting with the plot holders on the remaining sites is yet to take place. Councillor Butler to arrange.

429. Update from the Allotment Administration Team

Waiting List – Throughout lockdown we were inundated with enquiries, though not many requesting the Percy Estate. There are 35 people in total. Plots do not come up very often on the other 3 sites, we can continue to take names but we need to stress that it could be a long time before there is an available plot. Considerations should be given to have a cut-off for the waiting list.

Myton Green Allotments – the Town Clerk and LH are keeping a record of who contacts us until such time as we have further information. **Jon Davies** has now resigned as rep of Cape Housing, so we now have a vacancy, LH to email plot holders and put a notice on the gate. **The NAS website** has been very useful throughout lockdown as they regularly updated guidelines with the dos and don'ts which we were able to relay to plot holders. **A few plots on the Percy Estate** had been sprayed with weed killer. This matter was reported to the police.

430. Rules and Regulations – Rules and Regulations, LH wanted gain agreement for the committee to remove a tenant if they break the rules and regulations. It was agreed that LH would add a sentence to the rules and regulations and obtain council approval.

Use of bonfires; this year it was extended to the last Sunday of every month due to the flooding issues, an extension to the bonfire season was discussed and it was agreed that the rules and regulations for bonfires would stay the same as previous years and run from October to March unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise.

BBQs – it was agreed that these would not be permitted on any site and this would be added to the rules and regulations.

431. Tenancies and Lettings

Canalside – nothing to report.

Railwayside – 11b to be removed from the database as it is impossible to cultivate. This can then be used as a communal area by plot holders.

Cape Road – There are plots that need cultivating but a vast improvement.

Percy Estate – In recent weeks there has been a lot of movement on this site, after the flooding experienced last year and this year a few existing plot holders requested a move. There are some plots in need of cultivation but discretion was essential due to the flooding and some plot holders who were self-isolating. Plots 53 and 54 are very overgrown, the same plot holder had the tenancy for both plots, a smaller plot was offered and taken, freeing up these two plots and splitting them has made four easier to manage plots. We are offering these out at present but they are a bit of a 'project'. LH to write to 3 plot holders and follow up with a notice to quit as these plots have rarely been cultivated.

432. Maintenance

LH mentioned the approach road covered earlier under matters arising.

433. Allotment Competition

The judge this year was Sarah Ridgeway from Hinton's Nursery in Warwick. The results will be posted as soon as an overall winner is announced. Walking around with a different judge was beneficial as she gave good positive feedback which can be used for the future. LH will circulate the feedback report. A few pointers were suggested - adopt a points system based on NGS scoring, reps to shortlist plots as there are too many to judge in one day and plots need to be clearly numbered, LH to follow this up with Sarah Ridgeway.

434. Devolved Management

No questions were raised at the meeting on Cllr. Noel Butler's Devolved Management Report. LH shared a letter that John Hinks had sent in. John Hinks has identified potential committee members and Abbas Abbas is actively speaking plot holders. There was concern there isn't a venue for committee members to meet due to the current situation. Cllr. Butler suggested in future meetings could be held at the Court House. The Devolved Management Report was approved by the committee.

435. Peas Lease Agreement

Cllr. Dave Skinner raised the question regarding ground rent, an initial figure of between of £750 and £1250 is being considered. The Lease Agreement was approved by the committee.

Signed..... Date.....