



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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QUALITY
TOWN
COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr. Pat Holden
Vice Chairman: Cllr. Carole Mulrone
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd JUNE 2010 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Jean Rowswell (Chairman), Mrs Elaine Crystall, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Carole Mulrone, Patsy Ryan, John Wren, plus Ron Bates, Ro Brett, David Hammond, John Longhurst and Martin Scott

In attendance: Paul Beckerson, Town Clerk
Bob Allan-Smith, Allotments Maintenance Officer

The meeting opened at 8.00pm

12. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members and the public to the meeting. The Chairman reminded members that it was the Farmers Market 10th Anniversary this Friday and encouraged members of the committee and public to attend. The Chairman also thanked David Hammond for all the work he has put in over the last ten years together with his late wife.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

14. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllrs J Holden and Pat Holden declared a personal interest as plot holders on the Manchester Drive site.

15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 26th May 2010 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

16. POLICY ON EXISTING TENANTS EXTENDING ONTO ADJACENT PLOTS

There had been a request from three allotment tenants who wished to expand their starter plots onto adjacent vacant plots. As this did not form part of the current waiting list the committee was requested to determine a policy on how to deal with such requests.

It was **RESOLVED: that tenants who held a starter plot could apply to expand onto an adjacent 1/3 plot providing that their existing plot had been maintained in good order.**

17. REPAIR TO MANCHESTER DRIVE GATE

The Clerk reported that the hinge to the main gate on the Manchester Drive site had sheared and that he had instructed AK Builders to affect an immediate repair. This was necessary to maintain security and access to the site.

18.REQUEST TO DUMP GRASS CUTTINGS FOR USE AS MULCH (ISS)

An allotment holder on the Manchester Drive Site who is also an employee of ISS (Waterers) has asked if it would be possible to dump grass cuttings accrued during the course of his work onto the site for the general use of allotment holders. He would liaise with the Chairman of MDAS on the areas to be utilised for this purpose.

It was **RESOLVED: that the Council gives its permission and that the allotment holder liaises with Martin Scott re its implementation.**

19.ALLOTMENT ISSUES – REPORT 1756/PB

- a. It was **RESOLVED: that people on the waiting list who were prepared to clear a plot would have priority over those who were not.**
- b. There had been some enquiries over the transferability between the different waiting lists. Members felt this was not really an issue because a lot of people put their names down on more than one list. So there was no need to make any changes.
- c. The absence of plot markers was making it difficult to establish which plot was which. Members felt that it was the responsibility of tenants to adequately identify their plots. It was noted at the last meeting that MDAS and LOSALGA would be arranging sign painting competitions to enable this. It was **AGREED** that in addition to the society's efforts that a reminder would be issued to tenants when the renewal letters are sent out.
- d. It was **RESOLVED: that with the exception of the wild area (plots 87 – 90) and the defensive hedging on the perimeter any available land would be brought back into use as allotments. A roadway would be marked out on Plot 102 and the remainder let as a starter plot.**
- e. Rubbish Clearance – the idea of a clearance event and the merits of providing a skip was discussed. The presence of asbestos was discussed and it was agreed the area would be signed and removal be undertaken in the autumn when the damper conditions would provide safer removal.
It was **RESOLVED: that a clearance event is arranged in tandem with MDAS and LOSALGA to take place prior to the Open Day in September. Metal would be collected for disposal by a scrap metal merchant and other rubbish would be disposed of by vehicles to the tip.**
- f. Marshall Close – Fallen tree. A tree had fallen on the boundary and was impinging onto private property.
It was **RESOLVED: to prune the offending branches and ensure it was stable.**
Additionally a resident had created a gate access to the allotment site; members felt this could give rise to legal rights of access.
It was **RESOLVED: to write to the resident after obtaining advice and to provide a notice indicating that residents have no right of way onto the site.**

20.REPORTS FROM SITE REPRESENTATIVES ON ITEMS NOT COVERED ABOVE

a) Marshall Close

- Ro Brett reported that there were some over grown plots and that some paths were becoming overgrown with brambles. The Allotments Maintenance Officer said that some plots were due to be taken over by new tenants and that he would be trimming overhanging branches. A reminder of tenants responsibilities would be included in the autumn renewal letters.

b) Leigh

- John Longhurst reported that the need to replace the lock on the entrance gate was now urgent. Cllr Pat Holden stated that there was a spare lock available. It was **AGREED** that this would be implemented at the earliest opportunity.
- There was a breach in the fence at plot 1 this was used by a resident to walk his dog. It was necessary to block this breach in the fence and a robust way of doing so would be investigated. It was **AGREED** that the address of the resident be ascertained and that he be written pointing out that this practice was unacceptable.

c) Manchester Drive

- Mr Scott reported that a Police Road Show would be taking place on the 18th July to encourage identity marking of equipment.
- A tenant had installed a pole on his plot and that the society would be writing to them requesting its removal.
- The allotments had been entered in a competition and that they had come top.

d) Orchard

- David Hammond stated that this year's crop would be good and that the grass would be cut down during July. He had already cut it down round the hedge boundary.

21.BUDGET

The current state of the budget was reported by the Clerk:

	Actual	Annual Budget
Income:	£15.00	£8270
Expenditure:	£3714.68	£17268

22.CORRESPONDENCE

A number of letters had been received from an allotment holder about various issues on the site. This was in the process of being addressed.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm