



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th JULY 2011 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Paul Lawrence (Chairman), Donald Fraser, Geoff Crawford, Pat Holden, Patsy Ryan, John Wren, plus Ron Bates, John Longhurst, Anne Scobie, Martin Scott and David Hammond.

In attendance: Vivien Choppen, Members of MDAS and LA (LOSALGA). PC Tracey Holmes and PCSO George Shepherd

The meeting opened at 8.00pm

24. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members and the public to the meeting. He specifically commented on the noticeable improvement in members of the societies and Councillors working together. He thanked those who had repaired the gates of the Leigh Site.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Carole Mulroney and Jerry Holden.

26. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

27. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 22nd June 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

28. PC TRACEY HOLMES AND PCSO GEORGE SHEPHERD (NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE)

The key messages from the presentation were:

- The allotment sites were regularly patrolled by uniformed police, plain clothes officers and dog patrolled units.
- The neighbourhood police considered the allotment sites as high priority and there is regular liaison with the Chairman of the Allotment Committee.
- It is essential that individuals personally report individual crimes to the police. Statements on behalf of others are not acceptable.
- Last year 17 incidents were reported resulting in 11 offences. This year to date only 3 incidents have been reported. Despite the recent break-in this represents a significant improvement.
- The neighbourhood police would like to see CCTV installed on the allotments.

29. ALLOTMENTS OPEN DAY WP (Report 1926/AODWP) No comments on report of meeting on 13th July 2011

30. **BEE HIVE POLICY** The following views about keeping bees on the allotments had been gathered. John Longhurst (LA) reported that some 12 plot holders had responded positively. Martin Scott (MDAS) reported that as a result of speaking to 9 plot holders – 7 were supportive, 1 was against as allergic to bee stings and 1 generally not enthusiastic. Martin Scott suggested that the Committee go ahead with the beehive policy with one hive on the MDAS side for 6 months and to see what reaction this elicits from adjacent plot holders. John Longhurst said that the beehive policy was too restrictive. The Chairman summed up by saying that feedback from a couple of dozen people was insufficient to take forward the decision about bee keeping; greater liaison was needed; the rules needed to be revisited and the Council had to consider the interests of all plot holders and not just the bee enthusiasts. The decision on bee keeping on the allotments was deferred until the next meeting.
31. **PURCHASE OF LONG REACH HEDGE STRIMMER - £179.00** As the Allotments Maintenance Officer was not present the decision was deferred until the next meeting.
32. **INSTALLATION OF FENCE** The Council was awaiting SBC's planning decision. So far delivery had been taken of 90 metres out of the 140 metres of fencing. It would be necessary to liaise with Ian Brown of SBC about the positioning of the fence. Some clearance work would have to be undertaken. Martin Scott highlighted the need for a project manager for the installation of the fence. No conclusions were made on this point.
33. **MDAS CONTAINER BREAK-IN**
Attendees were asked to give consideration to ways of improving the security of the site (apart from new fencing and CCTV). Anyone observing an individual leaving gates open were asked to report such an event to the office and the office would issue a letter to remind culprits of their responsibilities to lock up. Martin Scott noted that whilst this suggestion had merit, as the gates were hidden behind trees and the locks and keys did not always work, these factors mitigated against this suggestion working effectively.
34. **MATERIAL FOR ALLOTMENT ROADS**
Martin Scott had been successful in obtaining planings at a cost of £100 for approx a 20ton lorry load. MDAS will organise a working party to spread the planings. John Longhurst undertook to do the same on behalf of LA (LOSALGA).
35. **PARKING ARRANGEMENTS ON MDAS SITE** MDAS were content if one or two LA (LOSALGA) cars were parked on their site. It would become a problem if the numbers grew substantially.
36. **SYPHONING OF WATER BY HOSEPIPES FROM TANKS** Mixed feelings were expressed about the acceptability of syphoning of water. The existing rule of 'no hoses at all' would remain in force unless and until a viable alternative scheme was agreed.
37. **WATER SUPPLY FOR LEIGH ALLOTMENTS BUILDING** The Committee agreed to the supply of water to the Leigh allotments building on condition that the plumbing was done by a qualified plumber.
38. **MARSHALL CLOSE NOTICE BOARD** Anne Scobie was asked to pursue finding someone who could make a notice board as to buy one was too costly.
39. **SHEDS ON MARSHALL CLOSE** The Committee agreed that plot holders could have sheds, subject to the Council agreeing the size and siting of each before installation.
40. **WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SITE REPRESENTATIVES ON ITEMS NOT COVERED ABOVE**
The content of the written reports were noted subject to the following additional comments.
 - a) **Marshall Close** – Cllr Pat Holden undertook to talk informally with those not maintaining their plots before the office considered sending a letter. Anne Scobie was asked to remind plot holders about the need to lock the gate when leaving the site.
 - b) **Leigh Site** – Individuals experiencing problems as a result of the orchard boundary fence overgrowing need to put their complaint in writing to the LTC Office. Otherwise the matters cannot be considered.
 - c) **Manchester Drive** – The report was **noted**.
 - d) **Orchard** – The report was **noted**.

41. BUDGET – Report 1920/Allot

Noted

42. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm