



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2011 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Paul Lawrence (Chairman), Geoff Crawford, Donald Fraser, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Patsy Ryan and John Wren;  
Allotment representatives: Andrew Lewin, Anne Scobie and Martin Scott.

In attendance: Cllr Richard Herbert, Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk), Alan and Barbara Ashdown, Sheila Brazier

### ***The meeting opened at 8.00pm***

#### 48. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He expressed his thanks to Anne Scobie and the other volunteers that helped clear the tree from the brook. He commented that it was very good to see all the sites working so well together and thanked John Longhurst for the contribution he had made to the committee as representative of LA. Andrew Lewin was welcomed as the new representative of LA.

#### 49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Carole Mulrone, Ron Bates and David Hammond

#### 50. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

#### 51. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 6<sup>th</sup> September 2011 were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

#### 52. BEE HIVE POLICY

Feedback was received from the site representatives. Martin Scott stated that Bee Keepers should have at least 3 years experience and that fencing should be placed round any potential hive to avoid bees flying at low level. The potential risk to users of using mobile phones and strimmers were highlighted. MDAS had agreed that they did not want any bee hives on their site. Andrew Lewin requested that the existing bee hive on the Leigh site be kept.

It was agreed that the Policy be amended to reduce the number of permitted hives to one on the Leigh site and none on the Manchester Drive and Marshall Close sites. This would be reconsidered should an application for additional hives be made at some time in the future. It was also agreed that non-managed/top-bar hives would not be permitted on any site.

**RESOLVED:** that the amended Bee Hive Policy be adopted

#### 53. PURCHASE OF LONG REACH HEDGE STRIMMER & STORAGE OF EXISTING TOOLS - £179.00 (The insurers have confirmed that the tools would be covered providing it is locked up securely in a building or being transported)

**RESOLVED:** the storage arrangements were agreed and that the Hedge Strimmer is purchased subject to Health and Safety guidelines that the machine can be used safely by a single operative.

54. SECURITY FENCING AT MANCHESTER DRIVE ALLOTMENTS

The Chairman thanked MDAS and LA for their assistance in clearing the line of the fence and for removing rubbish. Asbestos had been found during the clearance and it would be necessary to remove it from the site. The Chairman undertook to take it to the Canvey Tip as previously.

**RESOLVED:** to vire the £500 from Plot Clearance into Rubbish Clearance. It was agreed to allocate up to £500 for a grab lorry and asbestos clearance.

55. DISABLED ACCESS POLICY

The societies would be interested to know if anybody was having difficulties due to disability. LTC would inform them if they were notified.

**RESOLVED:** LTC and the Societies would accommodate any reasonable request that is made to them and is practical to implement within the resources available.

56. MDAS MEMBERSHIP

This was deferred to a time when Cllr Mark Bromfield was able to attend.

57. INSTALLATION OF TRACK POSTS

**RESOLVED:** that F&GP be requested to fund up to £500 for the installation of the posts and new keys.

58. STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF MATS

Approximately 200 mats had been acquired from Belfairs School and have been stored in the lock up on the allotments. Some of the mats have been given to LA for their use a further 6 have been requested. Members were requested to decide on what should be done with the remainder. Thanks were expressed by the Chairman to Cllrs Mark Bromfield and Richard Herbert for assistance with moving them. Comment was made that they could be used in the winter to safeguard the grass on the Library Gardens if an event was held there.

**RESOLVED:** that the mats are kept stored as council property and are loaned out on request to the local community.

59. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

LA had requested that the gates remain open during busy times especially at the weekend. Members were concerned that this would present a security risk especially bearing in mind the considerable investment in the fencing to the northern perimeter. It was agreed that LA should bring back firm proposals as to how this would be supervised to the next meeting.

MDAS were thanked for organising the successful open day.

The representative's reports were **noted**. (Attached as Appendix 1 to the agenda)

60. BUDGET 2011/12

Report 1939/Allot (Attached as Appendix 2 to the agenda) was **noted**.

61. CORRESPONDANCE

Members **noted** the final report from John Longhurst.

***The meeting closed at 9.20pm***