



Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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Chairman: Cllr. Carole Mulrone
Vice Chairman: Cllr. Caroline Parker
Town Clerk: Paul Beckerson



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 2012 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, 67 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Paul Lawrence (Chairman), Mark Bromfield, Geoff Crawford, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Caroline Parker and Patsy Ryan;
Allotment representatives: David Hammond, Andrew Lewin, Anne Scobie

In attendance: Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk)

The meeting opened at 8.01pm

2. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and informed members that the bonfire dates for this year would be 26th and 27th May, 22nd and 23rd September and 10th and 11th November.

3. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Cllr Jerry Holden was elected as Vice Chairman

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Martin Scott

5. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meetings of 21st March 2012 and 9th May 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7. NOMINATIONS FOR WORKING PARTIES

- a. **Infrastructure Working Party**, Cllrs. Jerry Holden, Pat Holden and Paul Lawrence, plus one representative from each Allotment Society, MDAS and LOSALGA
- b. **Disputes Working Party**, Chairman and Vice Chairman of Allotments Committee with Chairman and Vice Chairman of Council as alternatives in case of unavailability or involvement in the dispute.

8. RULES REMINDERS: PLOT NUMBERING, USE OF WATER TANKS AND SPEED LIMIT ON THE ALLOTMENTS

It was agreed that tenants would be reminded of the rules when the rent letters were sent out in September. It was reiterated how important it was for plots to be numbered, that tools and produces should not be washed in the water tanks, dogs kept on a lead at all times and that the speed limit be adhered to.

9. DUMPING OF ASBESTOS ON SITE

Cllrs Paul Lawrence, Pat Holden and Martin Scott had removed asbestos from the site and taken it to Canvey Island. The issue of dumping asbestos on the site was discussed and what sanction would be appropriate if this rule was broken. MDAS were pursuing a policy of encouraging tenants to remove all asbestos from the site.

It was **RESOLVED** that a new rule be added to the tenancy agreement specifically prohibiting the dumping of asbestos on the site and that any transgression would result in immediate termination of the tenancy.

10. USE OF CAR TYRES

The use of car tyres on allotment plots had in past caused difficulties where they have been brought onto site and tenancies ceased leaving them on the site.

It was **RESOLVED** that the maximum amount of car tyres allowed on any one plot be set at 10.

11. IMPOSITION OF DEPOSIT SCHEME FOR PLOTS

After some discussion on the principle and an appropriate amount it was **RESOLVED** that a deposit of £60 for a full plot, £30 for a half plot and £20 for a starter plot be imposed on all new lettings and that people on the waiting list be notified of this resolution.

12. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

It was noted that the roads were still in a very wet state and that it had been necessary to block them off to prevent deterioration. There had been incidences of poisoning on the Leigh site and it was agreed to review the position in September. The track posts were due to be installed shortly.

The request that a strip of land be kept clear of vegetation adjacent to the fence did not find favour with the Committee. Members felt planting should be kept and hedge growth should be encouraged. Rubbish would of course be removed.

David Hammond presented his report drawing attention to the new Essex apple 'Rosy' which was flowering for the first time. It was felt that this should be publicised through a press release; Cllr Patsy Ryan would implement this.

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

13. BUDGET 2011/12

Report 2046/Allot (Attached as Appendix 2 to the agenda) was **noted**.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

15. MOTION TO EXCLUDE PUBLIC – The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

That in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in item 11 the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw (SO.1(c)) - (staffing)

15. TO CONSIDER REQUEST OF ALLOTMENTS MAINTENANCE OFFICER FOR ADDITIONAL HOURS AND REVIEW OF VAN ALLOWANCE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PERSONNEL SUB-COMMITTEE

The work on the allotments and priorities were discussed. It was felt that if the prioritisation of tasks was addressed no extra hours would be required. It was suggested that plot holders could be made responsible for cutting the track grass verges abutting their plots. A reduction in the frequency of grass cutting should be considered. A moratorium on hedge trimming had already been implemented between March and August.

It was therefore **RECOMMENDED** to Personnel Sub-Committee that there be no increase in the present hours.

The Committee further **RECOMMENDED** to Personnel Sub-Committee that the van allowance of £750 be increased this financial year in line with the retail price index and that it be reviewed annually thereafter on the same basis.

The meeting closed at 9.42pm