



# 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 19<sup>th</sup> SETEMBER 2012 AT THE LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Paul Lawrence (Chairman), Mark Bromfield, Geoff Crawford, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden and Carole Mulrone

Allotment representatives: Alan Ashdown, Ron Bates, David Hammond, Anne Scobie, Martin Scott

In attendance: Cllr Donald Fraser, Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk), Barbara Ashdown

### ***The meeting opened at 7.35pm***

#### 25. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and notified members that there would be no access to the main gate on the 24<sup>th</sup> September due to footpath works. The Chairman advised members that the Allotments Maintenance Officer would be leaving the Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> September and thanked him for all his work over the eight years that he had been with the Council.

#### 26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Caroline Parker, Patsy Ryan and Andrew Lewin (LA)

#### 27. 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.

#### 28. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> July 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 29. BONFIRE DATES FOR 2013

It was **agreed** that the dates for 2013 would be the same weekends as 2012.

#### 30. TRUST OWNERSHIP

After discussing whether the principles of Trust Ownership and its applicability to Statutory Allotments it was **agreed** that Cllr Mark Bromfield should make further enquiries as follows and bring it back to the next meeting:

To find out from the National Playing Fields Association if they have any other Allotments in Trust

To undertake a full analysis of the costs of implementing a Trust

#### 31. DEVOLUTION OF ALLOTMENT SERVICES & THE REDUCTION OF COUNCIL DIRECT SERVICES

As the Allotments Maintenance Officer was leaving at the end of the month it was **agreed** that the Council needed to come to a new arrangement with the Allotment Societies with regard to maintaining the sites.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Allotment negotiate new service agreements and devolution of services with the two allotment Societies and representatives of Marshall Close and bring proposals back to a future meeting of the Committee. It may be necessary to call an extraordinary meeting to deal with the subject.

32. REPORT OF WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER CRITERIA FOR DEPOSIT SCHEME – Report 2097 (Appendix 2 to the agenda)

The Committee accepted the report from the Working Group and **RESOLVED** to implement the deposit scheme with all new lettings commencing with the new Allotments year in October 2012. The scheme will be reviewed in 12 months.

Deposit Rates: Full Plot £50 – Half Plot £25 – Starter Plot £15

33. REQUEST FROM A LICENCEE TO ERECT FENCE & RENEWAL OF LICENCE - (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that the licence be renegotiated on the same terms as a General Allotments Tenancy and that the details of the proposed fencing be part of the negotiations.

34. QUOTATION FOR CONTINUATION OF FENCE ON NORTHERN PERIMETER

A price had been received from one contractor for 8 bays. It was considered that possibly because of the short run it was not subject to economies of scale.

It was **RESOLVED** to obtain further prices as follows:

A comparable quote for a similar length of fencing

A quote for completing the remainder of the fence on the northern perimeter

A quote for the supply of the fencing only together with alternate installation prices

35. QUOTATION FOR ADDITIONAL STOPCOCKS ON LEIGH SITE

The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation of £460 and to vire the funds from the Plot Clearance budget to the Maintenance Budget.

36. REVIEW OF RENTS 2013

The Committee **RESOLVED** that when reviewing rents that those of Southend BC be taken into account.

37. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES

The representatives' reports were **noted**. (Attached as Appendix 4 to the agenda)

38. BUDGET 2012/13

Report 2096/Allot (Attached as Appendix 5 to the agenda) was **noted** and that the Staff Costs virement to the LCC Budget be deferred.

39. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none.

***The meeting closed at 9.03pm***