



# Leigh-on-Sea Town Council

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



## MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013 AT THE LEIGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, 71-73 ELM ROAD, LEIGH-ON-SEA

Present: Cllrs: Paul Lawrence (Chairman), Mark Bromfield, Donald Fraser, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden and Carole Mulroney

Allotment representatives: Alan Ashdown (LA), David Hammond (Orchard), Tony Wilson (MDAS), Anne Scobie (MC) (from Min 77)

In attendance: Cllr Patsy Ryan (from Min 78), Paul Beckerson (Town Clerk), Barbara Ashdown, Carol Wilson, Gerald Brazier, John Longhurst, Mr T Lengden, Alan Webb

### ***The meeting opened at 7.30pm***

#### 76. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chairman welcomed members to the last meeting of the year and thanked the Committee for their support and help, and the community pay back service for their hard work on clearing the northern boundary line. The ASAs had now been signed with MDAS and Leigh Allotments and the Chairman thanked Cllr Jerry Holden for preparing them. Some issues had been raised regarding the hedge cutting and it was noted that Ron Bates had sent a report to the Town Clerk and the Chairman and his comments would be taken into consideration before the next cut

#### ***Anne Scobie joined the meeting***

#### 77. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Geoff Crawford and Caroline Parker, Ron Bates (LA), Ashley Hitchcock (MDAS)

#### ***Cllr Patsy Ryan joined the meeting***

#### 78. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

***Cllrs Mark Bromfield Jerry Holden, Pat Holden and Paul Lawrence each declared a non-pecuniary interest as plot holders on the Manchester Drive site and ordinary members of MDAS.***

#### 79. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### 80. PROVISION OF FENCE TO REMAINDER OF NORTHERN BOUNDARY

- Retention of pedestrian gate in the new fence regarding Leigh Site Plots 34 and 35. The cost of providing a 2m palisade pedestrian gate is £590 and the tenant has offered to pay half of the cost - £295. (Appendix 1 to the agenda)

***The meeting adjourned to allow Mr Lengden to speak in support of his letter and to take views from other allotment holders present***

Members then discussed that if the gate was retained, whether it has limited access as at present or becomes an additional communal gate. A recorded vote was requested on whether to provide the gate or not;

**For providing the gate:** Cllrs Donald Fraser, Jerry Holden, Pat Holden, Paul Lawrence and Carole Mulroney

**Against providing the gate:** Cllr Mark Bromfield

It was therefore **RESOLVED** that the gate be retained.

A vote was then taken on the question of whether it should have limited or communal access.

It was **RESOLVED** that the gate should be sited in the same position as the existing gate, have limited access for the duration of the tenancy and revert to Council use only, at the end of the tenancy.

- Confirmation of Costing  
The cost of the palisade fencing is £2,734.87 plus £250 delivery  
Installation is £16 per lm = £1,472 plus £590 to supply and install the gate  
An Allowance of £500 for a grab lorry and digger to clear fence line  
A total of **£5,546.78** less £295 = **£5,251.78**

The Committee confirmed the costing of £5,251.78 and to investigate alternative provision of the gate at a reduced cost if possible.

#### 81. CONFIRMATION OF BONFIRE DATES

The Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm the dates 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and to put these on the website.

#### 82. REVIEW OF DEPOSIT SCHEME AND AMMENDMENT OF ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT

It was proposed by Cllr Pat Holden and seconded by Cllr Jerry Holden that the principle of deposits be affirmed.

The Committee **RESOLVED** to confirm the deposit scheme and apply discounts to the rent if plots required clearance.

The Committee noted that while the deposits had been applied by LTC, they had not been implemented by MDAS, in view of this:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to refund deposits taken to date and commence the scheme from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013. The Allotment Agreement would be amended accordingly with the amended wording being distributed to members for comment prior to issuing.

#### 83. CONSIDERATION OF PROHIBITION OF ACCESS TO SITE DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS

The Committee **RESOLVED** to take no action.

#### 84. PROCEDURES FOR VEHICULAR & DISABLED ACCESS DURING ROAD CLOSURES

It was **RESOLVED** that all plot holders be made aware that permission was available to enable disabled access when the tracks were closed to other plot holders. This would be incorporated into the advice when new plot holders signed up and all other plot holders would be informed when the renewal letters went out. Members wished to get legal advice in writing prior to implementation.

85. WRITTEN REPORTS FROM SITE REPRESENTATIVES

The site representatives highlighted certain aspects within their reports, MDAS had recently let 10 plots with 14 plots remaining but these were mostly waterlogged.

The Committee **noted** the reports.

86. BUDGET – Report 2179/Allot (Appendix 3 to the agenda)

Members requested that the MDAS rental be shown as a net figure in terms of the budget and the commission.

It was **RESOLVED** that £50 be vired from the Staff budget to cover the cost of the £50 paid to LA for plot letting in the current financial year.

Members **noted** the report.

87. EARMARKED RESERVES

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to F&GPC that £890 of the predicted underspends be put in an earmarked reserve to cover the balance of the cost of the perimeter fence and that the balance be allocated in an earmarked reserve for rubbish clearance.

88. CORRESPONDENCE

There was none other than the letter referring to the gate discussed earlier.

***The meeting closed at 9.11pm***