Andover Town Council

# Allotments Committee
## Minutes

**Time and date** 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 September 2026

**Place** The Lights, Andover

| **Councillors Present:** | | | Arrival time noted if after meeting start | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cllr K Hughes (Chairman) | **P** | | Cllr E Reynolds (Vice Chairman) | **P** | | Cllr T Burley | **A** | |
| Cllr J Cockaday | **P** | | Cllr R Kidd | **X** | | Cllr L Gregori | **A** | |
| Cllr J Hughes | **P** | | Cllr R Hughes | **P** | | Cllr T James | **P** | |

| **Site Wardens Present:** | | | Arrival time noted if after meeting start | | | | | |
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| Admirals Way | | | Old Winton Road | **P** | | The Drove | **P** | |
| Barlows Lane | | | Ox Drove | | | Vigo Road | **P** | |
| Churchill Way | **P** | | Picket Twenty | | | | | |
| Mylen Road | | | Saxon Heights | | | | | |

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| **Officers Present:** | Leah Walsh (Committee and GDPR Officer), Jo Whiteman (Allotment Officer) |

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| **Members of the Public:** | 4 |
| **Members of the Press:** | 0 |

| **ALLOTMENT HOLDER SURGERY** | |
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| **AC 044/09/26** | **The Drove Warden:**<br><br>The warden raised a concern regarding an increase in rats, particularly around the area near the main gate.<br><br>The warden reported that the number of rats appeared to be worse, particularly since the weather had improved. The Allotment Officer confirmed that this had been fed back to the relevant pest controller.<br><br>It was noted that this is an ongoing issue, with monthly inspections taking place, and that the situation would continue to be monitored. |
| **AC 045/09/26** | **OWR Warden:**<br><br>The warden raised concerns regarding broken taps and the difficulty of isolating the water supply during emergencies. It was suggested that replacement taps should have |

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| | isolation valves fitted and that quarter-turn taps be considered to help prevent damage to washers and reduce water wastage.<br><br>It was agreed that this should be looked into and added to the next agenda for further discussion.<br><br>The warden raised a query regarding the new fence at Old Winton Road and the requirement for tenants to maintain a one-meter clear access area.<br><br>Clarification is required on whether the tenant or the Council is responsible for maintaining the area, including removing grass, brambles and other growth. The relevant rules and regulations will be checked and responsibility confirmed. |
| **AC 046/09/26** | **Barlows Lane Allotment holder:**<br><br>A tenant raised concerns regarding the use of hose pipes during the current restrictions and queried the arrangements around exemptions.<br><br>A further concern was raised regarding vehicle use and access around the allotment site, with some instances potentially affecting access to the tracks.<br><br>Some concerns were also raised regarding the use and management of individual plots and whether these are consistent with the allotment rules and regulations.<br><br>It was agreed that the Allotment Officer would look into the concerns raised and take any appropriate action. |
| **AC 047/09/26** | **OWR Allotment holder:**<br><br>A tenant raised concerns about water usage during the recent drought and hose pipe restrictions, noting that watering cans can be difficult for some allotment holders to use. They suggested that IBCs and other forms of rainwater storage could provide a more sustainable alternative.<br><br>The tenant explained that they had successfully used an IBC with a drip irrigation system and timer, which significantly reduced the need to use mains water. It was suggested that IBCs could be considered more widely, provided they are installed safely and securely.<br><br>It was noted that care would be needed when sourcing used IBCs to ensure they have previously contained suitable materials and are appropriate for storing water for use on allotments. The importance of keeping water storage containers covered was also highlighted.<br><br>It was suggested that further guidance or education could be provided to allotment holders on effective water-saving methods, including the use of drip irrigation and rainwater collection. |
| **PUBLIC SESSION (*The discussion below is a short summary and is not recorded word for word.)*** | |
| **AC 048/09/26** | There were no questions raised by the members of public. |
| **APOLOGIES** | |
| **AC 049/09/26** | Apologies were received from Councillors L Gregori and T Burley. |

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| **INTERESTS** | |
| **AC 050/09/26** | Non-pecuniary declarations were received from:<br>1. Councillor E Reynolds, as a member of the Drove Association, and as an allotment plot holder. |
| **MINUTES** | |
| **AC 051/09/26** | It was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor R Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting held on 22 July 2026 , be signed by the Chairman as a correct record. |
| **WATER STORAGE CONTAINER** | |
| **AC 052/09/26** | Water Storage<br><br>The Committee considered an application for a large water storage container and discussed the need for clear rules and regulations regarding the use of such containers on allotment plots.<br><br>The Committee was supportive in principle of permitting water storage containers, provided they were appropriately located and connected to a suitable rainwater collection system. It was noted that containers should not be placed on roofs or elevated structures, or interfere with neighbouring plots or access pathways.<br><br>It was noted that the current rules and regulations do not specify a maximum size or height for water storage containers. The Committee therefore agreed that the rules and regulations should be updated to include clear requirements.<br><br>It was recommended that the application be approved, subject to the new rules and regulations being agreed and implemented.<br><br>Officers were delegated to investigate the appropriate maximum height for water storage containers, including consideration of guidance and practices at other allotment sites. A maximum height of 600mm was discussed as a possible limit, subject to the outcome of the officers' investigation.<br><br>It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor J Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the application be approved subject to the new rules and regulations, with officers delegated to investigate and confirm the appropriate maximum height and prepare the necessary amendments to the rules and regulations. |
| **ALLOTMENT REQUEST** | |
| **AC 053/09/26** | Allotment Request Barlows Lane<br><br>Members considered a tenant's request to arrange green-waste collection from the Barlow's Lane allotment site.<br><br>It was noted that Test Valley Borough Council's green-waste service is intended for domestic properties and is unlikely to collect from an allotment site. Members also raised concerns about security and allowing unidentified collection drivers or vehicles access to the site. |

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| | The tenant may make private collection arrangements at their own expense, subject to the following conditions:<br><br>• No collection vehicle or driver may enter the allotment site.<br>• The bin must be moved to the roadside by the tenant for collection.<br>• All costs and practical arrangements are the tenant's responsibility.<br>• The tenant is responsible for managing the bin and resolving any misuse or related issues.<br>• Alternatively, the tenant may take bagged waste home and use a domestic green-waste collection service, where permitted.<br><br>It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the tenant may arrange a private green-waste collection, provided collection takes place from the roadside and neither the collector nor its vehicle enters the allotment site. All associated costs, arrangements and responsibilities will remain with the tenant. |
| **PICKET TWENTY SITE** | |
| **AC 054/09/26** | Picket Twenty Handover report<br><br>Members considered the report regarding the P20 site handover and the proposed transfer of the yellow boundary area to Persimmon's management company.<br><br>The Committee expressed a desire to progress the handover and bring the matter to a conclusion after a lengthy period of delay.<br><br>It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: Unanimously,** that the Allotments Committee approve Persimmon's proposal for the yellow boundary area to be transferred to their management company, agree that the P20 handover can proceed on this basis, and delegate authority to the Town Clerk to finalise the arrangements. |
| **ALLOTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT** | |
| **AC 055/09/26** | Members received and reviewed the Allotment Officer's report.<br><br>Members expressed their thanks to the Allotment Officer for her hard work. |
| **FUTURE ITEMS** | |
| **AC 056/09/26** | Water conservation – consider tenant education and practical measures to promote responsible water use, particularly ahead of future drought periods. |
| **NEXT MEETING** | |
| **AC 057/09/26** | Members noted the date of the next meeting would be on **Wednesday 28 October 2026** at **6.30pm**, at **The Lights**. |
| **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC** | |
| **AC 058/09/26** | It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor J Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that in accordance with section 1 (2) of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting due to the confidential nature of the item 12 be approved. |
| **EVICTION APPEALS** | |
| **AC 059/09/26** | **Vigo Road** |

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| | It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the decision to refuse the eviction appeal be approved. |
| **AC 060/09/26** | **Vigo Road**<br><br>It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor J Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously,** that that the decision to refuse the eviction appeal be approved. |
| **MEETING CLOSURE** | |
| **AC 061/09/26** | The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.40pm |

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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