



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Allotments Committee **Surgery**

Time and date

5.30pm on Friday 13 December 2019

Place

The Rendezvous, Union Street, Andover

Cllr A Watts (Chairman) (P)

Cllr M James (Vice Chairman) (P)

Cllr L Banville (P) (Arrived 5.34pm)

Cllr G Davis (A)

Cllr R Rowles (A)

Cllr D Treadwell (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee & GDPR Officer) (Taking the Minutes)

Nikki Barber (Allotment Officer)

Allotment Wardens Present: 3

Members of the Public: 4

Allotment Holders Surgery

Cllr A Watts (Chairman) opened the surgery at 5.30pm and welcomed all attendees.

The Chairman

Asked if anyone had any suggestions, questions or concerns.

A question was raised regarding why there had been no water charges for The Drove Allotment Site in September 2019.

The Town Clerk replies that the water company had overcharged during 2018/2019, which had already been charged to allotment holders. Once the balance had been recouped, the allotment holders would again be charged. It was anticipated that there would be a charge from September 2020.

At the previous Allotment Committee meeting a question was asked as to whether the Town Council would fund and organise a gardening competition. The question was asked as to why it did not appear in the list of events in the officers' report.

The Chairman responded that the funding had been included in the Town Councils draft Budget 2020/2021. However, as the funding had not yet been approved, it would not yet appear in the list of events. However, it was due to be discussed at the Allotment meeting in February and was on the Committee Work Programme.

The Chairman of the Allotment Committee asked if there were any other questions or comments. As there were none it was agreed to start the Committee meeting early.
The surgery finished at 5.40pm



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Allotments Committee

Time and date

5.40pm on Friday 13 December 2019

Place

The Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Cllr A Watts (Chairman) (P)

Cllr M James (Vice Chairman) (P)

Cllr L Banville (P)

Cllr G Davis (A)

Cllr R Rowles (A)

Cllr D Treadwell (P)

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee & GDPR Officer) (Taking the Minutes)

Nikki Barber (Allotment Officer)

Allotment Wardens Present: 3

Members of the Public: 4

Members of the Press: 1 (arrived at 5.57pm)

AC 55/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Davis.

Cllr A Watts gave apologies from Cllr R Rowles which were accepted.

AC 56/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

AC 57/19 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr D Treadwell and seconded by Cllr M James that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held on Friday 11 October 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held on Friday 11 October 2019 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AC 58/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Member of Public 1:

With reference to item 6, Provision of Allotments on the North Side of Andover, clarification was asked as to whether Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) had confirmed whether there were allotment sites included in the 106 Agreement for Augusta Park development. If they had not been included to date, the Town Council should insist that allotment sites be provided.

The Chairman confirmed that the Town Council was seeking clarification on the 106 Agreements.

Member of Public 2:

Showed Members of the Committee plans of a proposed allotment site near Augusta Park which stated that 10 plots would be provided. It was stated that following the 1969 Thorpe Report, there should be 45 plots for Romans Ward.

Other sites were shown to the Committee which would provide more allotment plots, they were located by Smannell Park, including a small patch of wooded area.

Member of Public 1:

Pointed out that the areas of land being discussed were owned by multiple land owners, including Hampshire County Council.

The Town Clerk explained that as the Town Council was the Allotment Authority it would have to investigate all possibilities and report back to the Committee.

The Chairman of the Committee confirmed that the issue would be discussed further under Item 6 of the Agenda.

AC 59/19 PICKET PIECE ALLOTMENTS (OX DROVE)

Members noted an update report on the transfer of the Picket Piece allotment site.

The Town Clerk confirmed that since the time of writing of the report she had seen a first draft of the agreement. It was further confirmed that it would need to be agreed by full Council and it was anticipated that the agreement would be submitted to full Council in either January or February 2020.

AC 60/19 REQUEST FOR ALLOTMENTS – NORTH SIDE OF ANDOVER

Members received a report on the duties of the Town Council following a submission for a request for Allotments on the North Side of Andover.

Members discussed the request for the provision of additional allotment plots on the North Side of Andover. Questions were asked as to whether the small areas of land suggested could be consolidated into one.

The Town Clerk explained that landowners would have to be consulted and would depend upon whether they were willing to sell the land.

The Town Clerk further commented that the Town Council did not have any money in its Budget to purchase any allotment land.

Discussions continued as to whether monies should be taken from Reserves or a public works board loan.

The Town Clerk reminded Members that much research would need to take place before any submissions could be made.

The Chairman called for the Committee to take a vote on the Options contained within the report.

It was proposed by Councillor L Banville and seconded by Cllr D Treadwell that both options 1 & 2 be agreed. A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Options 1 & 2, as follows, be agreed:

Option 1

The Town Council has already been approached by a developer to consider an allotment site at the old East Anton School site. This should be further investigated as this may provide allotments under a 106 Agreement in the Northern Area of Andover. This would mean that the Town Council would not need to purchase the land, it would be transferred under a 106 Agreement.

Option 2

Officers investigate possible potential allotment sites and approach landowners to establish whether they would be willing to sell any land to the Town Council.

Officers investigate land costs in the Andover area. Currently the Town Council has no budget or specific monies set aside for the purchase of allotment land, as the Town Council already provides the required number of allotment plots for the number of households.

Investigation into costs would be required for the Council to make an informed decision into fair costs for the purchase of any land.

Officers would also need to investigate the cost of the Town Council setting up a new site, for example contractors installing fencing, laying out paths and plots and the provision of a water supply and sheds.

AC 61/19 ALLOTMENT OFFICERS REPORT

Members noted the Allotment Officers' report.

AC 62/19 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Members noted the Committee Work Programme.

Additional Items were requested to be included:

Britain in Bloom

Compostable Toilets

C 063/19 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the next Allotment Committee meeting would take place on

Wednesday 27 May 2020, at the Town Council Offices, 68B High Street, Andover, starting at 5.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.18pm.

Chairman

Date