



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Allotments Committee

Time and date

6.30pm on Wednesday 25 October 2023

Place

The Lights, Andover

Cllr K Hughes (Chairman) (P)
Cllr J Hughes (P)

Cllr E Reynolds (Vice Chairman) (P)
Cllr R Hughes (A)

Cllr L Gregori (A)
Cllr R Kidd (P)

Officers Present:

Gail Foster (Town Clerk)
Jo Whiteman (Allotment Officer)

Allotment Wardens present representing:

Saxon Heights
Vigo Road
The Drove Corporate Warden and Treasurer

Members of the Public: 8

PUBLIC SESSION (*The notes below are a precis of statements/questions. They are not recorded word for word.*)

AC 212/10/23 Vigo Road Warden

Q: The gravel that had been left over from the Main gate installation, could this be moved?
A: It would be moved when the track repairs have been completed.

AC 213/10/23 Member of Public 1

Q: When will the noticeboard on Barlow's Lane be moved?
A: It is on the list of jobs to be done, but not as a priority as plots where tenants had been evicted, need to be dealt with first.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chairman/Vice Chairman:..... Date:.....

The Town Clerk confirmed that outstanding jobs would be prioritised at the next Wardens' Meeting.

AC 214/10/23a The Treasurer of The Drove Association reported that there had been more sightings of rats near plots 1 & 3. It was suggested that a map be laminated and displayed on site where tenants could indicate on it, where rats had been seen. This would give the Pest Controller a better idea of the area.
Action: Allotment Officer

AC 214/10/23b TVBC Pest Control would also be contacted.
Action: Town Clerk

AC 214/10/23c The Treasurer of The Drove Association also stated that the Association had discussed the issue of dogs being allowed on site and had unanimously decided that The Drove did not want the rules to be changed. They had suffered from bad experiences in the past. It was asked if this could be borne in mind if Councillors did decide in favour of removing the dog ban, that The Drove be excepted from that decision, if made.
The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his comments and feedback from The Association.

AC 215/10/23 The Vigo Road Warden stated that in relation to Item 9 on the agenda, he believed that the current sizes for the building were adequate.

PRESENTATION OF WINNERS TROPHIES

AC 216/10/23 The Chairman explained that the Southern Representative of the National Allotment Society had judged the plots. It had been difficult to find a winner as some of the plots had been kept to a very high standard. The Chairman congratulated the plot holder of 30A at Vigo Road, for winning the "Best Kept Plot 2023" competition. A small trophy was presented to her and her children.

AC 217/10/23 The winner of the "Weirdest Looking Vegetable 2023" competition was presented with a small trophy too. Both winners had photographs taken that would be sent to the Andover Advertiser.
The Chairman noted that the competitions would run annually and that everyone is encouraged to participate.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

AC 218/10/23 Apologies were received from Councillors L Gregori and R Hughes.

INTERESTS

AC 219/10/23 Councillors were reminded of the Standing Declarations of Interests which had been approved by Council for Councillor E Reynolds as a Member of the Drove Allotment Association and a plot holder.
It was proposed by Councillor J Hughes and seconded by Councillor K Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that dispensation be allowed for Councillor E Reynolds, to vote in items 9 and 10 on the agenda.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chairman/Vice Chairman:..... Date:.....

MINUTES

AC 220/10/23

It was proposed by Councillor R Kidd and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting, held on Thursday 28 September 2023, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Action: Committee Officer

WATER SUPPLY AT THE DROVE

AC 221/10/23

Councillors noted that the date for the commencement of works, was likely to be the week of 13th November 2023 or 21st November 2023.

ALLOTMENT RENTS

AC 222/10/23

Councillors noted the status of collection of rents and signatures of tenancies, as at 12:00hrs on 25 October 2023:

SITE	NO. OF PLOTS	RENTAL COLLECTED	RENTALS STILL DUE	NO OF PLOTS OWING	% RECEIVED.	NO. OF TENANCIES NOT SIGNED
Admirals Way	28	£ 755.74	£ 184.80	4	76%	14
Barlows Lane	99	£ 4,186.21	£ 479.16	11	89%	63
Churchill Way	45	£ 1,558.27	£ 532.88	11	66%	24
Mylen Road	25	£ 1,015.05	£ 141.44	4	86%	7
Old Winton Road	80	£ 3,534.23	£ 353.76	7	90%	36
Ox Drove	11	£ 418.60	£ 99.44	2	76%	1
Saxon Heights	10	£ 503.80	-	0	100%	2
The Drove	131	£ 5,578.54	£ 669.37	16	88%	49
Vigo Road	105	£ 3,828.49	£ 587.00	12	85%	61
TOTAL	534	£ 21,378.93	£ 3,047.85	67	86%	257

THE DROVE VEHICLE CLOSURE

AC 223/10/23

It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor J Hughes and **RESOLVED: FOR – 3, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 1**, to approve the plans and to delegate that communication between Council and Tenants to be handled jointly by ATC Officers and The Drove Association, who will oversee the works, insurance, Risk Assessment and Safety Equipment required.

GREENHOUSE SIZES

AC 224/10/23

It was noted that whilst there had been different versions of the rules and Regulations since 2011, when the Town Council had taken over the allotments from the Borough Council, the particular clause in relation to greenhouse sizes had been constant in restricting the maximum size to 6 x 8 feet.

The Chairman advised that he had spent time looking at the Rules that other Councils had in place. Nearly all stated the same size as Andover Town Council prescribed. The Chairman had been able to find only one Council that allowed a larger size.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chairman/Vice Chairman:..... Date:.....

Councillor Reynolds pointed out that the bigger the size, the more effect wind would have on the structure. Therefore, there was more risk of flying or broken glass if the rules were to allow bigger greenhouses.

A discussion followed. It was proposed by Councillor J Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the issue be noted as reviewed, however, that Councillors felt no change to the rules in this regard was necessary.

DOGS ON SITES

AC 225/10/23

Councillors were provided with a back up paper "dogs on sites". This outlined the tenant's proposal to allow dogs on leads and potential rule changes that may need to be put in place. An additional confidential feedback paper, showing comments from the Allotment Wardens and tenants that had written in with their views, was provided to the Councillors as well. It was noted that there were strong views from either side of the argument and that Wardens did not feel it was part of their remit to police dogs, if the rules were to be changed.

Councillor Reynolds stated that the Wardens were very much appreciated for the jobs that they carry out and that if dogs were allowed on site and consequently issues arose, that these may drive a wedge between tenants, wardens and the Council.

After a robust discussion, it was proposed by Councillor E Reynolds and seconded by Councillor J Hughes and **RESOLVED: Unanimously**, that the Rules and Regulations be kept as they are.

TREE ISSUES

AC 226/10/23a

SSE's contractor still had not provided a date for the tree works on Admirals Way Allotment Site to be done. Another contractor would be contacted to provide a quote.

Action: Town Clerk

AC 226/10/23b

Vigo Road Tree Survey was due to take place the week commencing 6th November. Admirals Way, Barlow's Lane, Churchill Way, Mylen Road, Old Winton Road and The Drove would follow shortly afterwards.

Action: Town Clerk

AC 226/10/23c

The Lantra Tree Course had not been available locally to provide Tree Assessment Training for Officers. An online course had been identified, however, Councillors felt that this might not be appropriate. Further investigation would be undertaken.

Action: Town Clerk

AC 227/10/23

A Warden's meeting would be scheduled prior to the next Allotment Committee meeting.

Action: Town Clerk

NEXT MEETING

AC 228/10/23

Members noted the date of the next meeting: **Wednesday 13 December 2023**, to be held in the **Upper Guildhall, Andover, starting at 6.30pm.**

The Chairman closed the meeting at **7.28pm.**

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Chairman/Vice Chairman:..... Date:.....