



Allotments Committee Minutes

Time and date

6.30pm on Wednesday 29 October 2025

Place

The Lights, Andover

Councillors Present:		Arrival time noted if after meeting start					
Cllr K Hughes (Chairman)	x		Cllr E Reynolds (Vice Chairman)	✓		Cllr T Burley	✓
Cllr J Cockaday	✓		Cllr J Goodwin	✓		Cllr L Gregori	✓
Cllr J Hughes	✓	6.50pm	Cllr R Hughes	✓		Cllr R Kidd	x

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

Officers Present:	Tor Warburton (Town Clerk), Jo Whiteman (Allotment Officer)
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Members of the Public:	1
Members of the Press:	0

PUBLIC SESSION (<i>The discussion below is a short summary and is not recorded word for word.</i>)	
AC 026/10/25	Admirals Allotments Warden Reported that recent work had been carried out on Plot 19, which had been stripped, covered, and fitted with raised beds. He expressed the view that this approach had been a waste of money and suggested it would have been more effective to rotavate the ground and divide it into two plots.
AC 027/10/25	Barlows Allotments Warden Reported that work on the track had been completed only up to a certain point and that further work was required from the corner at Plot 50 down to Plot 56. She noted that more stones had been needed than originally quoted, as the area was deeper than expected. The Allotments Officer confirmed that she would obtain a quote to complete the remaining section of the track. The warden raised her concern about some recent issues with fly-tipping on the allotment site. Councillor L Gregori reiterated that this was an offence and advised that allotment holders would be reminded accordingly. He further stated that the matter would be escalated and appropriate action taken should the issue persist.

	The warden also reported that some tenants were unhappy with the stone parking area, as vehicles were sinking into the surface. In addition, it was reported that there were two beehives on the site. The beekeepers' instruction signs on the fence had become faded and the tenants had been asked to refresh them.
AC 028/10/25	The Drove Allotments Warden Asked that the rules regarding e-scooters be clarified to make it clear that the restriction does not apply to mobility scooters.
AC 029/10/25	Surgery closed at 6.46pm.
APOLOGIES	
AC 030/10/25	Apologies were received from Councillors J. Hughes, Councillor K. Hughes and R. Kidd.
INTERESTS	
AC 031/10/25	Non-pecuniary declarations were received from: 1. Councillor E. Reynolds, as a member of the Drove Association and as an allotment plot holder.
MINUTES	
AC 032/10/25	It was proposed by Councillor T. Burley and seconded by Councillor J. Cockaday and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee meeting held on 16 July 2025, be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
MAINTENANCE STRATEGY	
AC 033/10/25	Members noted the updated Maintenance Strategy and the Maintenance Strategy progress report. Councillor L. Gregori suggested that the document be formally adopted. The Town Clerk advised that the strategy would be circulated to Members and Wardens for comment and brought back to the next meeting for approval and recommendation to Full Council.
ALLOTMENT BUDGET	
AC 034/10/25	Members received the draft proposed budget and went into discussion.
AC 035/10/25	Councillor L. Gregori commented specifically on the Section 106 funding for the upgrading of the Old Winton Road fencing. He stated that, after reviewing the rules, he did not believe the project would qualify for this funding.
AC 036/10/25	The Town Clerk reported that discussions were ongoing with Test Valley Borough Council and that they were being followed up weekly. The Clerk also confirmed that external options were being explored.
AC 037/10/25	Councillor R. Hughes stated that he did not believe sufficient time and attention had been given to the matter. He suggested that a briefing be arranged with the officer responsible for Section 106 and CIL funding, to explain the process required to access the funds. He also emphasised the need to actively consider raising the precept and to develop a structured three to five-year financial plan.
AC 038/10/25	<i>(Councillor J. Hughes arrived 6.50pm)</i> It was proposed by Councillor L. Gregori and seconded by Councillor T. Burley and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the Allotment Committee budget be increased by 10% for the 2026/2027 financial year and that this be recommended to the Policy and Resources Committee.
AC 039/10/25	It was recommended that the Ox Drove Allotment maintenance budget be increased to £2,500.00, due to it being an ongoing real-time cost rather than a projected one. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor J. Cockaday and RESOLVED: FOR – 4, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 1, that the Ox Drove Allotment maintenance budget be set at £2,500.00 for the 2026/2027 financial year.

These minutes are published in draft pending approval at the next Committee meeting.

BEEKEEPING ON ALLOTMENTS	
AC 040/10/25	Councillor E. Reynolds spoke to the matter of beekeeping on the allotment sites. He advised that he had been approached by several allotment holders from various sites around Andover requesting permission to keep bees. After careful consideration, Councillor Reynolds stated that he could see no reason why the current policy could not be amended to allow a greater number of beehives on larger allotment sites, on a proportional basis — the bigger the site, the more hives that could be permitted. He commented that the decline in the bee population is widely recognised as a national concern and in his view, remains an ongoing issue. He suggested that the Council could take a balanced approach by enabling responsible beekeeping on allotments, subject to appropriate conditions — one of which should be that any beekeeper must also hold a plot on the same allotment site where their hives are kept. to operate on allotments, provided certain criteria are met — one of which should be that the beekeeper must also be a plot holder on the site where the bees are kept.
AC 041/10/25	Members entered into discussion. The following tasks were agreed for progression ahead of the next meeting. • Officers to undertake further research on the points raised. • The Allotment committee to provide some steerage. • A review of the beekeeping rules to be undertaken with potential amendments to be considered.
AC 042/10/25	Following discussion, Councillor L. Gregori proposed that it be agreed in principle to extend beehive coverage within the Council's allotments, subject to Officers working out the details in consultation with relevant experts. This would include reviewing practices adopted by other allotment providers and obtaining guidance from the Allotment Society, such as information on the space requirements for groups of hives.
AC 043/10/25	Councillor E. Reynolds recommended that a stipulation be included which would ensure that beekeeping was limited to one hive per individual keeper. This would prevent potential issues arising from large-scale beekeeping on allotment sites.
AC 044/10/25	It was proposed by Councillor L. Gregori and seconded by Councillor J. Cockaday and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that the principle of extending beehive coverage within the allotments be agreed, subject to further investigation and development of detailed guidelines by Officers.
E-SCOOTERS ON ALLOTMENTS	
AC 045/10/25	Members reviewed two requests regarding the use of E-Scooters on allotment sites and discussed the matter in detail. It was noted that the use of E-Scooters on public land was currently illegal. Members also highlighted the need to issue clarification confirming that this restriction did not apply to recognised mobility aids.
AC 046/10/25	It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor J. Cockaday and RESOLVED: Unanimously, that: 1. The requests to permit the use of E-Scooters on allotment sites be declined. 2. Officers issue written responses to the applicants outlining the legal position and confirming the exemption for disability-related mobility aids.
GEODESIC DOME REQUEST	
AC 047/10/25	Members received a tenant's request to install a geodesic dome and went into a careful and considerate discussion. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and

	seconded by Councillor T. Burley and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the request be declined and that Officers inform the tenant accordingly.
TREE WORKS AT THE DROVE	
AC 048/10/25	Members reviewed the revised quote for tree works at The Drove Allotment site. After consideration, it was agreed to adhere to the original decision and amount as determined at the previous committee meeting (AC015/07/25). It was proposed by Councillor T. Burley and seconded by Councillor J. Hughes and RESOLVED: Unanimously , That the original amount agreed by the Committee shall remain unchanged. That any additional costs which arose from the landlord's newly proposed works would be paid for solely by the landlord.
TREE WORKS AT BARLOWS LANE	
AC 049/10/25	Members reviewed a quote for tree works at Barlows Lane Allotment site. It was noted that the tree was located on Test Valley Borough Council's property and therefore, the matter fell under their responsibility. It was proposed by Councillor L. Gregori and seconded by Councillor T. Burley and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the issue be referred to the Head of Services at Test Valley Borough Council for actioning.
HOSEPIPE RESTRICTIONS	
AC 050/10/25	Members received a report regarding the use of soaker hoses and sprinklers during a hosepipe ban. After a discussion, it was agreed that the use of soaker hoses and sprinklers should be banned during any future hosepipe bans. An amendment to the Allotment Rules and Regulations was suggested to clarify that only hand-held watering systems would be permitted during any hosepipe bans.
AC 051/10/25	It was proposed by Councillor E. Reynolds and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the Allotment Rules and Regulations be updated to annotate that the use of soaker hoses and sprinklers during hosepipe bans was prohibited. That it be delegated to Officers to communicate the amendment to all tenants.
AC 052/10/25	Members discussed the current bonfire ban. It was agreed that the Rules and Regulations relating to bonfires on allotments should be highlighted, which included the winter bonfire timings from 4pm onwards and types of materials that were permitted to be burnt. It was proposed by Councillor E. Reynolds and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that: • The bonfire ban be lifted with immediate effect. • The winter bonfire timings would now apply. • The Allotment Rules and Regulations concerning bonfires be clearly reiterated to all tenants.
ALLOTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT	
AC 052/10/25	Members received and reviewed the Allotment Officer's report and expressed their thanks for her hard work. Members requested that the Allotment Officer review the current allotment waiting list management process and present recommendations for improvements at a future meeting.
PICKET TWENTY ALLOTMENT SITE	
AC 053/10/25	Members noted that the Town Clerk, Allotment Officer and Councillor E. Reynolds would be meeting the developer's landscaper on 11 November 2025, to review and agree the remedial works required on the site, prior to the official handover.

FUTURE ITEMS	
AC 054/10/25	Councillor L Gregori asked the Allotment Committee to come up with some ideas regarding green spaces which could be fed into the Planning committee.
NEXT MEETING	
AC 055/10/25	Members noted the date of the next meeting on Wednesday 26 November 2025 to be held at The Lights, Andover, at 6.30pm.
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC	
AC 056/10/25	It was proposed by Councillor J. Hughes and seconded by Councillor R. Hughes and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting at item 18 of the agenda, due to the confidential nature of the item and to comply with GDPR.
EVICTON APPEALS	
AC 057/10/25	Vigo Road It was proposed by Councillor E. Reynolds and seconded by Councillor J. Cockaday and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the decision to refuse the eviction appeal be approved.
AC 058/10/25	Vigo Road Members considered and accepted the appeal. It was agreed that the plot would be inspected in six weeks. If no significant improvement is observed, the eviction would proceed without further warning letters. It was proposed by Councillor R. Hughes and seconded by Councillor T. Burley and RESOLVED: Unanimously , that the eviction be withdrawn at this time, with a further inspection to take place in six weeks, after which eviction will proceed without additional warning if no significant improvement is observed.
MEETING CLOSURE	
AC 059/10/25	The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.01pm.