



# ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

## Minutes of Allotments Committee **Surgery**

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### **Time and date**

6.30pm on Wednesday 5 October 2022

### **Place**

The Lights, Andover

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Cllr K Hughes (Chairman) (P)  
Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr N Long (Vice Chairman) (P)  
Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)  
Cllr E Reynolds (P)

### **Officers Present:**

Karen Ross (Locum Town Clerk) (Taking the Minutes)  
Tor Warburton (Deputy Clerk)

### **Allotment Wardens Present:**

Tim Stockwell – Old Winton Road

### **Allotment Wardens Apologies:**

Mike Cantillon – The Drove

**Members of the Public:** Unknown

### **Allotment Holders Surgery**

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor K Hughes, the Vice Chairman, Councillor N Long, opened the surgery at 6.30pm and welcomed all attendees.

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

### **Member of Public 1:**

Price increase by 10% for the next four years. How can you justify that because that means in four years' time, I will be paying £73.79 for the plot.

**Vice Chairman's response:**

If you look at other allotment sites in and around Hampshire, people are paying more for their allotment plots than the people in Andover. We are not meeting the costs of what we are doing on the allotment sites, we are actually losing money. We should at least be breaking even on what we provide.

**Member of Public 1:**

Have you got some figures on the cost of The Drove allotment site?

**Vice Chairman's response:**

We can provide you with figures by letter or email. The figures are also online to view.

**Member of Public 2:**

I wish to dispute about email addresses. For many years I have asked the Allotment Officers to send mail to my email address but they don't. I have had 6 letters this year. That's 87pence a time. You're talking about overspend, you can save a lot of money there.

**Vice Chairman's response:**

This has been looked at and things have been put in motion to rectify this going forward.

**Member of Public 3:**

I was very surprised at the access consideration being proposed on The Drove with the proposal of a one-way system. I've invested heavily on my plot in wood and materials to build a base for my shed. Placed an order with a local company, agreed a certain date for delivery on which the gate would be open. They got stuck. I've google mapped the area which is basically a mud bath for the whole of the winter. So, we had to use scalpings off the van to dig it out. So how cars and Icknield school van is supposed to get around there is beyond me.

**Vice Chairman's response:**

No decision has actually been made on that item as yet. It is on the agenda at item 7 to be discussed.

**Member of Public 4:**

I represent Icknield School. Regarding the one-way system on The Drove, our buses would not be able to turn the tight corners and we would be restricted.

**Member of Public 5:**

I would like to add to the discussion about The Drove gate in that it will be heavy, ladies will struggle and some elderly gentlemen. You'll increase the amount of trouble going on that site. It won't cut down any noise, you'll actually increase it, as all the vehicles will go in one gate and come out one gate.

**Member of Public 6:**

My concern is security. We have had a number of thefts on The Drove. On the north side, there is very little fencing in some places. Are there any proposals to do something about this considering you do have an emergency funds which you can use to do other things?

**Vice Chairman's response:**

If I could ask the warden of that area to take some photos and send them in to the Officers, we can have a look into it and decide what we can do to improve it.

**Member of Public 7:**

The notice came up saying there were problems with noise at the gates. But what is the noise? Is it the clanging of the gates? Is it the running of cars near the gate? Is it people talking near the gates? If it's just the clanging, would it be a solution to put rubber around some of the areas on the gates so they don't clang?

**Vice Chairman's response:**

That is part of the discussion at item 7.

**Old Winton Road Warden:**

Concerning the price increase, some tenants at Old Winton Road, feel in the last two years, particularly with the removal of the 50% subsidiary for the over 65's and the proposed price increase over the two years, that they are being targeted as cash cows.

**Vice Chairman's response:**

If you do your homework and look at what some of the other Council's are charging, Andover is charging cheaply and we are not breaking even.

**Member of Public 8:**

The water charges seem to have doubled this year. We had a year which was free with no charges because it was said that the water company owed us money. This year where it is normally £10 to £15, its now £30. With the rent going up as well, its not going to help people.

**Vice Chairman's response:**

Water is metered on individual sites. The fairest way to sort it, is to divide the amount by the number of plot holders on the site.

**Interim Town Clerk:**

The Drove is an anomaly this year, as last year the water bill did not come in time to be added to your bills.

**Member of Public 8:**

We were told it was free and that the water company owed us.

**Councillor L Gregori:**

Who told you it was free?

**Member of Public 8:**

Allotment Officer 1

**Vice Chairman's response:**

Have you got the email advising you of that?

**Member of Public 8:**

I will check and provide it to you.

**Member of Public 5:**

Just to comment about the emails, I get emails in block capitals telling me off, but I don't get my bills via emails.

**Interim Town Clerk:**

I will look into this.

**Member of Public 5:**

Also, regarding the 10% price increase every year for four years, maybe once the toilets have gone, you may find that you are in a better state.

**Councillor R Hughes:**

The Council did have a choice, either to increase the prices by 40% in one go or to spread the increase over four years.

**Member of Public 9:**

Notices regarding the hosepipe ban. These were written in capitals, punctuation mistakes, spelling mistakes and always carried a threat of eviction in them. It has to stop.

**Vice Chairman's response:**

This will be investigated. We have a new person at the helm, please be patient.

The Vice Chairman closed the surgery at 6.55pm and handed the meeting over to the Chairman, Councillor K Hughes.



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6.56pm on Wednesday 5 October 2022

### Place

The Lights, Andover

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Cllr K Hughes (Chairman) (P)

Cllr L Gregori (P)

Cllr N Long (Vice Chairman) (P)

Cllr R Hughes (P)

Cllr D Coole (P)

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### Officers Present:

Karen Ross (Locum Town Clerk) (Taking the Minutes)

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### Allotment Wardens Present:

Tim Stockwell – Old Winton Road

### Allotment Wardens Apologies:

Mike Cantillon – The Drove

**Members of the Public:** Unknown

### AC 119/10/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received at the meeting.

### AC 120/10/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor E Reynolds declared an Interest in Item 7 as he is an Allotment Warden and Holder.

### AC 121/10/22 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor D Coole and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting, held on Thursday 7 July 2022 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 Thursday 7 July 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

## AC 122/10/22 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

### The following questions were asked:

1. How many complaints about noise on The Drove have been received in comparison to all sites?
2. Has the noise level been measured?
3. How will the noise problem be solved if the Town Council has no money?
4. Are there more people entering the South Gate and is this why there is an increase in the noise?

Councillor L Gregori suggested an idea of a letter going to all allotment holders regarding the donation of surplus vegetables and fruit, to the Andover Foodbank. The letter should be drafted by an Allotment Holder, who is also an Andover Foodbank volunteer. The Crisis Centre was also mentioned as a potential beneficiary.

## AC 123/10/22 NEW ALLOTMENTS

Members **noted** that the Saxon Heights Allotment Site was ready to be handed to Andover Town Council. The final questions posed by the developer are with the Council's solicitors.

Members also **noted** that no response had been received to emails that had been sent to the developer regarding the Picket Twenty Allotment Site.

## AC 124/10/22 BARLOW LANE GATE

Members received the report for the replacement of the gates at Barlow Lane Allotment Site.

It was proposed by Councillor L Gregori and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that Quote 2 funded from Earmarked Reserves, be recommended to Full Council for approval.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That that Quote 2 funded from Earmarked Reserves, be recommended to Full Council for approval.**

## AC 125/10/22 THE DROVE GATES

Members received the report outlining the proposed solution for the gates at The Drove Allotment Site.

It was proposed by Councillor N Long and seconded by Councillor D Coole that the quotes be dismissed and a site visit take place with all those concerned including Councillors.

Councillor R Hughes proposed an amendment was then tabled to dismiss the quotes and a site visit be arranged for all those concerned. Seconded by Councillor L Gregori.

A vote was taken:

FOR – 5, AGAINST – 0, ABSTENTIONS – 1

**RESOLVED: That the quotes be dismissed and a site visit be arranged for all those concerned.**

## AC 126/10/22 ALLOTMENT BUDGET 2023/2024

Members received the Allotment Budget 2023/2024.

It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor L Gregori that the Allotment Budget 2023/2024 be accepted as presented.

A vote was taken:

FOR – 3, AGAINST – 2, ABSTENTIONS – 1

**RESOLVED: That the Allotment Budget 2023/2024 be accepted as presented.**

**AC 127/10/22 UPDATE FROM THE PEST CONTROLLER**

Members noted an updated report from the Pest Controller.

**AC 128/10/22 UPDATE ON ALLOTMENT PLOT UPTAKE**

Members noted the updated report on Allotment Plot uptake across all sites.

**AC 129/10/22 ALLOTMENT OFFICERS REPORT**

Members received the Allotment Officers Report.

**AC 130/10/22 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The following items were requested to be added to the Committee Work Programme:

No items were requested to be added to the Work Programme. A request was made that the work programme should only include work being commissioned by the Committee.

**AC 131/10/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Members noted the date of the next meeting: **Thursday 2 February 2023**, venue to be confirmed.

**AC 132/10/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor D Coole and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that the Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting at Agenda Item 15 due to the confidential nature of the items and to comply with GDPR.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the Members of the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting at Agenda Item 15 due to the confidential nature of the items and to comply with GDPR.**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**AC 133/10/22 COMPLAINT**

Members noted the complaint received from a resident who neighboured an Andover Town Council Allotment site.

It was proposed by Councillor K Hughes and seconded by Councillor N Long that the complaint would continue to be dealt with under vexatious complaints policy, their email address would be blocked and any correspondence filed without acknowledgement.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the complaint would continue to be dealt with under vexatious complaints policy, their email address would be blocked and any correspondence filed without acknowledgement.**

**AC 134/10/22 EVICTION APPEAL**

Members received an appeal to an eviction notice.

It was proposed by Councillor L Gregori and seconded by Councillor D Coole that the appeal be dismissed and the eviction process be continued.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

**RESOLVED: That the appeal be dismissed and the eviction process be continued.**

**AC 135/10/22 WARDEN UPDATE**

Members received a verbal updated Warden's report.

**AC 136/10/22 RESOURCES REVIEW**

The Resources Review was received with the current findings noted.

- Management and maintenance of the Allotments needed to be more professional
- Rules and Regulations have been issued.
- Warden meetings should be arranged.
- Waiting lists should be monitored.
- Communication with tenants needs improving with the preferred method of contact being email.
- Multiple letters to individual tenants should be avoided.
- Thanks went to the interim Town Clerk.

The Chairman closed the meeting at **8.50pm**.

Chairman

Date