



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Allotments Committee **Surgery**

Time and date

6.30pm on Thursday 2 February 2023

Place

The Lights, Andover

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

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

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

Officers Present:

Gail Foster (Town Clerk) (via zoom)
Tor Warburton (Deputy Clerk) (Taking the notes)
Fern Long (Allotment Officer)
Jo Whiteman (Allotment Officer)

Allotment Wardens Present:

Mike Cantillon – The Drove
Nick Turner-Howe – Vigo Road

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.

The Drove Warden:

I have a comment on the Minutes from the last meeting, particularly regarding rents and the comment that there are other Allotment sites that charge more than Andover. Newbury charge 38 pence per square metre, Salisbury is 37 pence per square metre and Basingstoke, only 23 pence. If you were to remove the toilets, do you know how much per square metre that would save? It is about 5.5 pence per square metre.

Vice Chairman's Response:

You have picked out the lower rental sites. I will send you a list of some allotment sites that charge £110 for a viable plot.

Member of Public 1:

It is more about the services that are being provided on those more expensive sites. If the Town Council wants to raise the rent, then the Town Council will need to provide the services that the new rates equate to.

Deputy Clerk's Response:

If you refer to the Town Clerk's report, there is a massive overhaul going on regarding what is being delivered, how it will be delivered and the efficiency in which it will be delivered. So I am hoping that in the not so distant future, you will all see a massive change if not in the allotments but certainly in the way it is managed.

The Drove Warden:

One of the key elements is internal practices, that needs to be looked at before pushing up the rents significantly.

Vigo Warden:

I was on my plot and noticed a woman that I had not seen there before. The woman was not a plot holder and was looking for her cat. She accessed the plot via a hole in the fence by her house. I think this needs looking at.

Vice Chairman's Response:

Thank you for doing your job and looking out for the site. There are a few gaps and this will be looked at.

The Vice Chairman closed the surgery at 6.37pm.



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Allotments Committee

Time and date

6.38pm on Thursday 2 February 2023

Place

The Lights, Andover

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

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

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

Officers Present:

Gail Foster (Town Clerk) (Via zoom)
Tor Warburton (Deputy Clerk) (Taking the notes)
Fern Long (Allotment Officer)
Jo Whiteman (Allotment Officer)

Allotment Wardens Present:

Mike Cantillon – The Drove
Nick Turner-Howe – Vigo Road

Members of the Public: Unknown

AC 137/02/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors D Coole, L Gregori and K Hughes.

AC 138/02/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

AC 139/02/23 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting, held on Wednesday 5 October 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 Wednesday 5 October 2022 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

AC 140/02/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no comments received from Members of the Public present at the meeting.

AC 141/02/23 NEW ALLOTMENTS

Members noted that the Saxon Heights Allotment Site will be handed over before middle of February 2023. The contracts have been signed and Officers now await the handover date.

It was also noted that no response had been received to emails sent to the developer of the Picket Piece Allotment Site. Officers will keep chasing a response.

AC 142/02/23 OLD WINTON ROAD PEST REPORT

Members noted a report on squirrel ingress at Old Winton Road Allotment Site.

It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds that the Town Clerk send a strong letter to Environmental Health at Test Valley Borough Council, highlighting the squirrel and rat issue, as well as the nuisance being caused by residents over feeding the animals.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk send a strong letter to Environmental Health at Test Valley Borough Council, highlighting the squirrel and rat issue, as well as the nuisance being caused by residents over feeding the animals.

It was proposed by Councillor N Long that the Pest Controller be instructed to commence work to cull the squirrels. There was no seconder.

Motion not passed.

AC 143/02/23 THE DROVE GATES

Members noted and considered an update report on the noise situation with The Drove gates following a site inspection.

It was proposed by Councillor N Long and seconded by Councillor R Hughes that it be delegated to the Chairman to write to the complainant advising that all reasonable action has been taken. That Environmental Health were satisfied that the provisions put in place are sufficient. That no further action would be required.

Members agreed unanimously on the proposal.

RESOLVED: That it be delegated to the Chairman to write to the complainant advising that all reasonable action has been taken. That Environmental Health were satisfied that the provisions put in place are sufficient. That no further action would be required.

AC 144/02/23 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Members noted the final amendments to the Rules and Regulations following comments received from the Wardens.

The Vice Chairman gave his thanks to the Officers for their hard work with the amendments. The Deputy Clerk expressed the Chairman's acceptance of the updated Rules and Regulations, in his absence.

It was proposed by Councillor N Long and seconded by Councillor E Reynolds that the updated Allotment Rules and Regulations be approved.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That the updated Allotment Rules and Regulations be approved.

AC 145/02/23 UPDATE FROM THE PEST CONTROLLER

Members received a verbal update from the Pest Controller as follows:
"Regarding the squirrels issue on Old Wnton Road. There is a row of bungalows, one of which is an avid bird feeder, particularly kilos of monkey nuts. This has attracted the squirrels and rats. It's a constant food source for the rats, which has resulted in constant visits to try to get rid of the rats as a consequence.
It is not legal to poison the squirrels. Live traps are possible but its time consuming and costly. An option is an A24 Good Nature trap which would take care of them humanely. This would be at no extra cost to the Council. Also, it is possible for the Council to enforce the residents to stop feeding the animals."

AC 146/02/23 UPDATE ON ALLOTMENT PLOT UPTAKE

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

AC 147/02/23 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Members received and noted the Town Clerk's report.

AC 148/02/23 ALLOTMENT OFFICERS REPORT

Members received and noted the Allotment Officers Report.

AC 149/02/23 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

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

- Outcome of the Town Clerk's report.

AC 150/02/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Members noted the date of the next meeting: **Wednesday 8 March 2023**, to be held in the **Upper Guildhall, starting at 6.30pm.**

AC 151/02/23 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor N Long 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.

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AC 152/02/23 APPEAL

Members received an appeal to an eviction notice.

It was proposed by Councillor R Hughes and seconded by Councillor N Long that it be delegated to the Town Clerk, to send a second cultivation warning letter to the tenant, advising that they have a period of two weeks in which to show compliance of the cultivation rules.

A vote was taken which was unanimous.

RESOLVED: That it be delegated to the Town Clerk, to send a second cultivation warning letter to the tenant, advising that they have a period of two weeks in which to show compliance of the cultivation rules.

The Chairman closed the meeting at **7.18pm.**

Chairman

Date