

Notes of Allotment Committee Surgery

Time and date

5.30pm on Friday, 14 June 2019

Place

Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Attendees:

Town Council Representatives

Cllr A Watts (Chairman) (P)	Cllr M James (Vice Chairman) (P)	Cllr R Rowles (P)
Cllr G Davis (A)	Cllr L Banville (P) (Substitute)	

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee & GDPR Officer) (training) (taking the minutes)

Allotment Wardens Present:

2

Members of the Public Present:

7

Cllr L Banville attended the meeting as a substitute for Cllr G Davis.

Allotment Holders Surgery

A member of The National Allotment Society made the following comments:

“Why are we constantly being given excuses as to why cultivation of plots on The Drove allotment site are not being done. It is growing season now and the plots should have been cultivated by now.”

The Town clerk acknowledged these comments and advised that uncultivated plots are a regular problem every year and explained that the Allotment Officers were actively chasing the Allotment holders and had issued eviction notices, in some cases.

Members of the public made the following comments:

Member of the Public 1:

"My comments and questions come in two parts first as public participation in the conduct of the meeting and secondly as an allotment holder contributing to the allotment holder's surgery.

1: Public Participation.

Its general practice at council meetings to allocate time for public participation at the beginnings of meetings but this has been and continues to be omitted from the agenda at ATC allotments committee. I recall it has been raised previously at meetings of this committee.

Can this item be added to future agendas please?

This committee previously had six members – a number arrived at by years of experience and good practice. But now the number has been reduced to five (effectively 4) for no apparent reason other than members can't be bothered.

Can someone explain why this reduction in number was agreed?

I note one member of the committee has resigned. A new member must be appointed by full council but there is no evidence this is happening.

Can someone explain what steps are being taken to replace this member to ensure adequate councillor representation on this committee?

Minutes of the previous meeting (AC18/19) list a number of items for inclusion in the agenda of tonight's meeting including pest control, fencing, hedging. But none have been included. Nor do they appear on the on-going work program.

Can these items be added to future agendas please?

I'm sure members will agree this committee deals with the most important statutory responsibility of the council and it's essential that it does its job properly and transparently. As these are important issues, I would like a written response to all the above items please.

2: Allotment Holders' surgery.

As already mentioned, pest control is a major issue on some allotments particularly Vigo Road and Barlows Lane. This is an ongoing issue particularly at Barlows Lane given its close proximity to the lakes and river. Incidents of rat damage to produce have been reported recently.

Can the officers update me on what actions have been taken?

There are a number of bait boxes around Barlows Lane. Are these currently in use and does the council have a list/map of where they are and what bait, if anything, is in these boxes.

Adequate pest control requires well managed experienced and competent operatives. ATC has such a contractor but its important that the council officers and committee have a full understanding of pest controls issues. Previously this committee had such experience but this is no longer apparent.

Can ATC as a matter of urgency ensure its officers have appropriate pest control training so they can manage pest control issues in future?

A recent memo advised allotment holders not to use car tyres on allotments. Has this matter now been resolved, if allotment holders have tyres to get rid of will the council remove them?

Again Barlows Lane – while some grass cutting has taken place it appears haphazard in places. Could officers clarify what is included in the contract and what has been done. Has the grass cutting been monitored and will the uncut areas be cut?"

Member of the Public 2:

Have the Councillors been to look at Ox Drove to check the site? The weeds are a foot high.

Has the original request for a hair-pin end been resolved?

Concern was expressed regarding the workable 1 in 9 gradient for wheelbarrows, need to push for the hair pin bend.

Public Member 3:

It was commented that the Pest Controller drove to the Vigo Road Allotment site, however, did not get out of his van and twenty minutes later he drove off, leaving the gates open.

The Town Clerk 's responses:

Surgery Time will be amended to include Public Participation.

Items Pest Control, fencing and hedging will be added to future agendas and the Work Programme.

Pest Control – The Allotment Officers have attended more regular site visits with the Pest Controller recently.

A map of all the bait boxes will be placed on each notice board on every allotment site.

The removal of all car tyres from the allotment sites will be looked into and an update will follow.

Allotment Officers will contact the contractors and ensure the grass cutting is fully completed.

To date, no officers or Councillors have visited Ox Drove as we are waiting for Test Valley Borough Council to sign off the work.

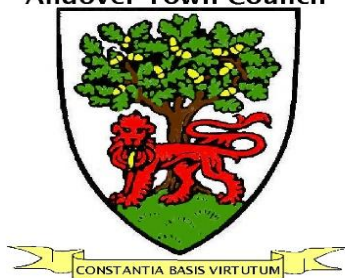
The hair pin bend is scheduled to be put in.

The Allotment Officers have been constant contact with the Pest Controller and he will be reminded to close the gate.

The scheduled work on the gates at Vigo road is imminent.

Surgery Closed 5.47pm

Andover Town Council



Minutes of Allotments Committee

Time and date

5.48pm on Friday, 14 June 2019

Place

Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Attendees:

Cllr A Watts – Chairman (P)	Cllr M James – Vice Chairman (P)	Cllr L Banville (P) (Substitute)
Cllr G Davis (A)	Cllr R Rowles (P)	

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town clerk)

Michelle Young (Committee & GDPR Officer) (training) (taking the minutes)

Allotment Wardens Present: 2

Members of the Public Present: 7

Cllr L Banville attended the meeting as a substitute for Cllr G Davis.

AC 20/19	Election of Chairman
	It was proposed by Cllr R Rowles and seconded by Cllr L Banville that Cllr A Watts be elected as Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020. There were no other nominations. RESOLVED: That Cllr Alison Watts be elected as Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020.
AC 21/19	Election of Vice Chairman
	It was proposed by Cllr L Banville and seconded by Cllr R Rowles that Cllr M James be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020. There were no other nominations. RESOLVED: That Cllr M James be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing Municipal Year 2019/2020.
AC 22/19	Resignation of Councillor from the Allotments Committee
	Members noted Cllr J Coole had resigned from the Allotments Committee.
AC 23/19	Apologies
	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr G Davis and it was noted that Cllr L Banville was his nominated substitute.
AC 24/19	Declarations of Interests
	There were no Declarations of Interest.
AC 25/19	Minutes
	Due to the Election of new Councillors in May 2019 and the fact that none of the new Councillors were members of the previous Allotment Committee, the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 April 2019 were not signed but were noted.

AC 26/19	Picket Piece Allotments (Ox Drove)
	<p>Members considered the updated report and noted the work that had been completed so far. Cllr R Rowles proposed and Cllr M James seconded that it be recommended to full Council to instruct the solicitors to draw up an agreement for transfer of land as Statutory Allotment provision and liaise with David Wilson Homes Legal Department.</p> <p>A vote was taken which was unanimous.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That it be recommended to full Council to instruct the solicitors to draw up an agreement for transfer of land as Statutory Allotment provision and liaise with David Wilson Homes Legal Department.</p>
AC 27/19	Icknield School – Allotment Rental Support
	<p>Members considered a report and a reduction in Icknield School Allotment plot annual rent. It was proposed by Cllr R Rowles and seconded by Cllr A Watts that the allotment annual rental costs be removed, however, Icknield School would still be responsible for the water costs.</p> <p>A vote was taken which was unanimous.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the allotment annual rental costs be removed, however, Icknield School would still be responsible for the water costs.</p>
AC 28/19	Installation of Replacement Gates – Vigo Road
	<p>Members received the updated report and noted that the replacement gates are being installed, with a total cost of £1318.65 plus VAT.</p>
AC 29/19	Allotment Officers Report
	<p>Members noted the updated report.</p>
AC 30/19	Committee Work Programme
	<p>Members noted the work programme for the Committee and requested that the following items be included on the agenda for the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pest Control Fencing Hedging Site Visits for Members of the Allotment Committee
AC 31/19	Date of Next Meeting
	<p>Members noted the date of the next meeting was Friday 16 August 2019 at 5.30pm at the Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover.</p>

The Chairman closed the meeting at 6.07pm.

Chairman:

Date: