

ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

A

Notes of Allotment Committee Surgery

Time and date

7.00pm on Thursday, 6 July 2017

Place

Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Attendees:

Town Council Representatives

Cllr K Hughes – Chairman (P)	Cllr A Cotter – Vice Chair (P)	Cllr V Pond (P)
Cllr B Long (P)	Cllr C Bartholomew (P)	Cllr R Kidd (P)
Cllr L Gregori – (A)		

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (P)
Tor Warburton (Committee Officer) (P) (training, taking the minutes)
Lisa Laing (Allotment Officer)

Other Town Councillors Present:

Cllr L Gates

Borough Councillors:

0

Allotment Wardens Present:

0

Allotment Holders Present:

0

Members of the Public Present:

7

Allotment Holders Surgery

Cllr K Hughes (Chairman) opened the surgery at 7:00pm and welcomed all attendees.

The Chairman

Asked if anyone had any suggestions, questions or concerns.

Mr N Long asked why item 11 was back on the agenda. Mr Long pointed out that a poly-tunnel requires regular maintenance otherwise plants will burn. He also stated that the Community projects posed a security risk for the other allotment holders at Vigo Road and that it was a potential breach of the Rules and Regulations.

The Chairman noted his comments and thanked him.

Cllr L Gates indicated that he wished to speak on Item 6 of the agenda. The Chairman agreed to allow Cllr Gates to speak during the meeting of the Allotment Committee.

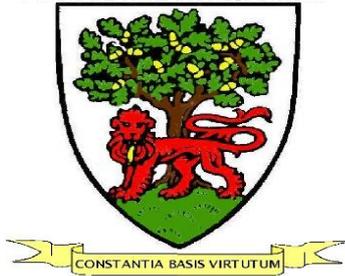
Mr Linda Gates spoke on behalf of her mother regarding a plot at Barlow's Lane that was terribly overgrown. The Allotment Officer informed her that a letter has been sent to the tenant and the eviction process started.

Cllr Gates reiterated that the plot was very overgrown and when this happens other allotment holders use the plots as dumping grounds. The Allotment Officer thanked Cllr Gates for his comments and said that she was open to ideas as to how to educate people.

Glynn from Vigo Road Allotments handed a paper with his points to the Allotment Officer. The Chairman thanks him.

Ted Reynolds from The Drove Association spoke requesting better communication between the Council and the Wardens. The Chairman confirmed that could be done and asked for specific contacts from The Association to be included in communciations.

Andover Town Council



Minutes of Allotments Committee

Time and date

7.08pm on Thursday, 6 April 2017

Place

Upper Guildhall, High Street, Andover

Attendees:

Cllr K Hughes – Chairman (P)	Cllr A Cotter – Vice Chair (P)	Cllr V Pond (P)
Cllr R Kidd (P)	Cllr C Bartholomew (P)	Cllr B Long (P)
Cllr L Gregori – (A)		

Other Town Councillors Present:

Cllr L Gates

Officers Present:

Wendy Coulter (Town Clerk) (P)

Tor Warburton (Committee Officer) (P) (training, taking the minutes)

Lisa Laing (Allotments Officer)

Allotment Wardens Present:

None

AC 04/17	Apologies	Action
	Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr L Gregori	
AC 05/17	Declarations of interest	Action
	Cllr B Long declared an interest in Item 11 as she is a Trustee of Andover Trees United. Cllr C Bartholomew declared an interest in Item 11 as she volunteers for Andover Trees United.	
AC 06/17	Minutes	Action
	The Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on the 6 April and 11 May 2017 were received and accepted as a true record. Proposed by Cllr K Hughes and seconded by Cllr Barbara Long. A vote was taken which was unanimous. RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on the 6 April and 11 May 2017 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record	
AC 07/17	Deposits	Action

	<p>It was asked why a deposit shouldn't be taken, it was pointed out that it was wasting too much of the officer's time. Cllr B Long asked what would happen if the auditor's advice was not heeded. It was pointed out that if this was decided then the public's money would be wasted.</p> <p>It was proposed by Cllr K Hughes and seconded by Cllr V Pond that the Internal Audit Report be noted and that the recommendation that Deposits for Allotments should cease from 1 September 2017 and all remaining monies will be returned, if possible, or reallocated into the Allotment fund be approved.</p> <p>A vote was taken:</p> <p>For 5 and 1 abstention</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Internal Audit Report be noted and that the recommendation that Deposits for Allotments should cease from 1 September 2017 and all remaining monies will be returned, if possible, or reallocated into the Allotment fund be approved.</p>	
AC 08/17	Water Works	Action
	<p>The Allotment Officer gave a report on the water works on Barlows Lane and noted that funds are earmarked for repairs as and when needed.</p> <p>It was suggested that the same be applied to all allotments.</p>	
AC 09/17	Bee application	Action
	<p>Cllr R Hughes proposed and Cllr R Kidd seconded that the Committee approve an application to keep bees on Admirals Way allotments.</p> <p>A vote was taken which was unanimous.</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Committee approve an application to keep bees on Admirals Way allotments.</p>	
AC 10/17	Fencing on Admiral's Way Site	
	<p>7.29pm Cllr K Hughes received call and left at 7.34pm.</p> <p>The Allotment Officer stated that the current fencing poses a security issue and would like the Committee to approve the Allotment Officer looking at and gathering quotes for a new fence. Once quotes are in this could be part of earmarked funds.</p> <p>Cllr A Cotter proposed and Cllr V Pond seconded that the Allotment Officer looks at and gathers quotes for a new fence.</p> <p>A vote was taken which was unanimous</p> <p>RESOLVED: that the Allotment Officer looks at and gathers quotes for a new fence.</p>	
AC 11/17	Allotment security	
	<p>It was agreed that the Allotment Officer would cover this in her Report and it was agreed to move on to the next agenda item.</p>	
AC 12/17	Appeal – Andover Trees United Polytunnel.	
	<p>Wendy Davis of Andover Trees United spoke about the aims and objectives of the project, covering all areas of concern. Topics covered were:</p>	

	<p>Security: The allotment is an alternative to the wood, it is safe and secure for her volunteers. They only attend the site on a Wednesday between 10am and 1pm. Only certain members of the volunteer core have the code for the gates. Code holders may go in outside of the Wednesday times to finish projects.</p> <p>Polytunnel purpose: the polytunnel was to be an area where work could continue regardless of weather. It was never just about seedling germination.</p> <p>Teaching/Training: The polytunnel will be used during the year to train the volunteers so that they can cascade the knowledge through schools and the community.</p> <p>Seed stock: The polytunnel will be used in Spring to germinate and prick seeds.</p> <p>Implications of refusal: A larger polytunnel is required for all the reasons stated above. Allotment Rules and Regulations does not state that a larger polytunnel is prohibited, it does say that if you would like a larger polytunnel then Committee approval is required. ATU stated that if a larger polytunnel is not permitted they would not be able to continue on the site and as the permitted size of 15 ft by 10 ft is not large enough to permit demonstrations for training. Concern was shown that if permission is not given for the larger polytunnel then an explanation would need to be offered to Tesco for monies received for the polytunnel. Wendy Davis of ATU was asked if the polytunnel had been purchased before permission was obtained, she confirmed that NO purchase had yet been made. It was pointed out that none of the correspondence with Tesco's states a size required. Wendy Davis confirmed that the size was mentioned within verbal conversations with Tesco's. Wendy Davis confirmed that, because no polytunnel has been erected no seedlings or whips have been raised. The ATU's ambition to engage with volunteers and the community has been halted.</p> <p>Age of volunteers: Wendy Davis confirmed that the youngest volunteer is 18 and that they currently have 8 volunteers.</p> <p>It was agreed that no decision could be made as there were not enough voting members present. An Extraordinary Meeting would be considered to decide on this appeal.</p>	
AC 13/17	Allotment Officers Report	
	The Allotment Officer delivered her report which was received and noted.	

The Chairman closed the meeting at. 8.25pm

Chairman

Date