



**Minutes of a meeting of the Gift of A. Burrow for Allotments Sub-Committee held on
Tuesday 12 February 2019 at 6.00pm at the Hayridge Centre**

Present: Councillors: Eileen Andrews, Iain Emmett, & Lloyd Knight

Also Present: Nigel Middlewick (Cullompton Allotment Association) & 2 no. members of the public (Richard & Deborah Thorne)

Clerk: Maria Weston (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES:** Received and accepted from Cllr. Oxford-Booth (work)
2. **CHAIRMAN:** To elect a Chairman for the meeting.
RESOLVED: That Cllr. Lloyd Knight is elected as Chairman for the meeting.
Proposed: Cllr. Emmett **Seconded:** Cllr. Andrews
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT:** None.
4. **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:** To receive questions from members of the public present at the meeting.
Mrs. Thorne stated that she wished to speak about her allotment plot but that as this was already on the Agenda (Item 8) it would be preferable to discuss the matter at this point. The Committee agreed that this would be acceptable.
5. **MINUTES:** To approve the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 December 2018.
RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 December 2018 are approved and accepted as a true record of the meeting.
Proposed: Cllr. Emmett **Seconded:** Cllr. Knight
6. **FINANCES:** To receive Income & Expenditure report. Noted.
NOTE: Cllr. Emmett mentioned that the revenue was slightly down from last year and the Clerk stated that her belief was that this was due to:
 - Certain plot/s being offered free of rent as the plot/s require attention (due to their condition). Further, that these plots would have their fees re-instated when the new tenancy year starts in September;
 - That there may be some outstanding allotment rents outstanding.– Clerk will investigate and report back to the next meeting of the Trustees.

RESOLVED: That the Trustees accept the Income & Expenditure report.

Proposed: Cllr. Emmett. **Seconded:** Cllr. Andrews.

7. **CULLOMPTON ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION:** To consider any matters that the Allotment Association wish to bring to the attention of the Trustees.
Mr. Middlewick stated that he had no specific questions but may wish to comment at Agenda item 8.
8. **REPORT:** To receive update with regard to an allotment shed and to consider the provision of a skip for the removal of shed contents. To agree any further action to be taken.

The Clerk distributed photographs of the allotment plot, shed & ex-shed contents and informed the Trustees of the background to this matter:

- The plot has a shed on it which had contained asbestos;
- The Trustees had resolved that the asbestos should be removed as this was considered a potential health & safety issue (and that this had now been carried out);
- That Council staff had removed the contents from inside the shed so that the asbestos removal contractors could gain access and that the contents had been placed outside (on the plot);
- That Mrs. Thorne has said that other parties have added to the pile of shed contents as it had grown considerably bigger;
- The shed was, in Mrs. Thorne's opinion, structurally unsound – there was concern that children from the neighbouring houses could be at risk if they were to climb on the roof of the shed as the roof timbers were rotted.

Mrs. Thorne then addressed the Trustees, re-iterating the points as above and adding that:

- She would take no responsibility for the rubbish on her plot or the shed itself;
- She had taken the plot on in good faith;
- There are nails sticking out of the shed;
- The roof of the shed is lifting and doesn't hold water;
- Someone had been using the shed as a toilet.

Cllr. Emmett asked Mr. Middlewick for his comments. Mr. Middlewick's view was that the shed had been on the plot for a long time and had been during several Allotment holder's tenures. Further, that whilst he understood the difficulties, other Allotment holders had previously had to remove their own sheds.

Cllr. Andrews expressed her opinion that the Council (as Trustees), should ensure that when an allotment holder vacates their plot, that the plot is left in a clean & tidy state. General discussion ensued about the Allotment policy and the need and regularity of inspections. The Clerk informed the Committee that a review of the Allotment policy would be added to the next meeting's agenda and asked if the Trustees could consider (before the next meeting) what they would like to be included in the policy.

RESOLVED: That the Council (as Trustees for the Gift of A. Burrows Allotment site) arranges for:

- the shed on plot 16A to be dismantled and that this, together with the ex-shed contents/rubbish on said plot to be removed as soon as possible via a skip;

- the Councils Maintenance Supervisor to determine, using his experience & best judgement, both the size of skip that is required and location of the skip;
- Other allotment holders to be contacted and invited to fill any remaining space in the skip should there be scope for this *

NOTE: * The size of the skip that is hired should be sufficient to remove the shed and its contents (currently on plot 16A). However, it was agreed that it would be acceptable to secure a larger skip to accommodate other plot holders rubbish should this be required. (Mr. Middlewick will ask his fellow Allotment Association members and Council staff will contact any additional plot holders)

9. **INSPECTIONS:** To agree a date to carry out an inspection of the Tiverton Road Allotment site.

RESOLVED: That the Trustees of the Gift of A. Burrows for allotments are happy to carry out an inspection of the Tiverton Road Allotment site and that this will take place on **Wednesday 10th April 2019 at 10:00am**. **Proposed:** Cllr. Knight **Seconded:** Cllr. Emmett

NOTE: Attendees to meet at the entrance to the Allotments.

10. **DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING:** Agreed as Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 6:00pm at the Hayridge Centre.

With no further business, the Chair thanked attendees and closed the meeting at 6:40pm

It is certified these Minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting:

Signed:.....

Name:.....

Date:.....