

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT TENANTS MEETING HELD ON 11th JUNE 2018 IN THE COOMBE SUITE AT THE CIVIC CENTRE AT 7.00PM



PRESENT; Cllrs P Smith (Mayor), P Barton, T Luker, N Pinnegar, L Farmer and 9 members of the public.

IN ATTENDANCE; Mrs D Hyam (Administrator).

8. WELCOME. Cllr P Barton welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

9. The minutes were noted of the previous Tenants Meeting held on 4th December 2018.

10. PROJECTS COMPLETED BY WOTTON TOWN COUNCIL Cllr Barton reported that a number of projects had been completed by the Town Council since the last Tenants Meeting held 4th December 2017, as detailed in the table below that appeared on the agenda. It was pointed out that a considerable sum of £7,748 had been spent on improvements to both sites.

Project	Cost	Resources Used
New Road		
New path to main gate and new gates	£ 3,365	Purchased services
New water supply connected	£ 3,534	Purchased services
Path by plot 10A and water tap shored up		Council staff
Plot 42 trimmed and covered		Council staff
New noticeboard	£ 328	Erected by Council staff and purchased noticeboard
Old rotivator removed		Council staff
Knapp Road		
Trimmed and covered plots 22A and 21B		Council staff
Area in front of main gate trimmed And treat with weed killer		Council staff
Brambles and hedge around plot 23A cut back		Council staff
All fly tipping, and rubbish removed by skip	£ 237	Council staff filled skip
Gate post repair	£ 230	Purchased services
Materials for fence repair	£ 54	Installed by Council Staff
Total	£ 7,748	

11. Allotment Holding Deposit Agreement. It was noted that the Allotment Holding Deposit of £50 had been introduced in February for new tenants. The aim is to encourage tenants to leave plots in an acceptable state when they decide to give up their allotment, and to cover costs of any rubbish or work that needs to be carried out. If all is satisfactory the deposit is returned in full.

12. Allotment News. Tenants welcomed the information detailed in the allotment newsletter. The following list of topics were suggested for future articles:

- Information on how to deal with tick removal as some had been found at the New Road site recently, with the addition of links to useful information on websites.
- A piece on Charles Dowding no dig gardening method and links to more information.
- Tips on how to deter cats fouling seed beds e.g use of chilli flakes.

13. Working Parties. No progress had been made with forming working parties but there are a number of tenants that do offer help and advice to beginners. It was pointed out that if working parties were formed a lot could be achieved to the benefit of all the tenants such as, purchasing seeds, sharing equipment and produce. To raise money for an allotment association it was asked if any surplus produce could be sold. Mrs Hyam to check if produce could be sold for this purpose. It was suggested that tenants could raise money using produce from the allotments to make cakes, jam etc and run a Town Hall Tea. It was recommended that a representative of the tenants contact the organiser of the Town Hall Teas as slots are usually booked up well in advance. It was noted that teas are also served at Tortworth lakes by local charities on the first Sunday of the month so that would be another option.

14. Budget. The following list of items were put forward for consideration for the budget meeting in November.

Knapp Road Site

- Handrail to middle steps – this is due to the steepness of the steps and some of the tenants that have plots in this area are retired or elderly.
- To infill and level middle steps – the gravel and soil of the steps have been either washed or worn away over time and need to be filled in.
- To re-align top path, install shuttering and level off – the path has become very uneven and some tenants have extended their plots making the path very narrow in places.
- To strim the area of brambles next to plot 35 and treat with weed killer – this area can then be used for another plot or communal use.
- Level off mound by plot 35 – the mound is now encroaching onto the bottom path and this will need a small digger to level it off. Tenants will be encouraged to compost their garden waste on their plot rather than use a communal compost heap.

New Road Site.

The site representative explained that much had been achieved by tenants to improve plots. One tenant has installed a rail next to a sloped path and has fitted shuttering to the edge of his plot. The rail has helped tenants using the path and the shuttering has stabilised the edge of it. Cllr Barton thanked the representative for his hard work on strimming the main paths on the site and encouraging tenants to improve their plots.

Items for consideration;

- Re-align and level paths especially the far path from plot 20 to 30 – the path has become narrow due to tenants encroaching on the path extending their plots. Ideally the path needs to be wide enough to accommodate a wheel barrow which in places has become difficult.
- Cut back cherry tree on plot 21 – due to its size it casts a lot of shade on plots in the close proximity.
- Skips for rubbish – it was established that there is a certain amount of old carpet at both sites and a quantity of wood left from previous tenants. It was pointed out that the hire of a small skip would be in the region of £250 a considerable amount as the cost would be the equivalent of over 10 annual full plot rent fees and other works may have to take priority.

15. Other Issues.

- It was suggested that all paths need to be reviewed and in some cases the tenants might be able to install shuttering at the edges of their plots themselves.
- Concern was raised with produce being taken from New Road allotments. No thefts had been reported as yet but with some crops being ready to harvest soon and past history of thefts it was felt that notices need to be erected for unauthorised access and camera monitoring. Any reports of thefts from the site need to be reported to the Police on 101 and to Mrs D Hyam.
- With the closure of the local refuse tip for 3 weeks many are concerned that fly tipping may become a problem. Any issues regarding this must be reported as action may be taken. Again notices could be erected to indicate that the site is under camera surveillance and any concerns reported to the council as soon as possible.
- A rotivator has been purchased by a tenant at Knapp Road. Enquires are to be made to ask if other tenants can use it for a small fee that could go towards its up-keep. Details are to be sent to Mrs D Hyam so it can be included in the next newsletter.
- Tenants at Knapp road reported that the top path has become very overgrown and they are finding it difficult to strim as it is mainly nettles and brambles.
- Concern was raised over some plots that are under special measures still being overgrown. It was explained that tenants are given time to improve their plots, but this depends on their circumstances.

16. This concluded the meeting and Cllr Barton thanked Councillors and members of the public for attending

Signed.....Chair of the Allotments Committee

Date.....