

DRAFT MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 14th NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT THE CIVIC CENTRE AT 7.00PM.



PRESENT: Cllr P Barton (Chairman), Cllr P Smith, Cllr T Luker, Cllr N Pinnegar, Cllr J Turner.

Co-opted members: A Burns

IN ATTENDANCE Administrator Mrs D Hyam.

218. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr R Claydon, Cllr L Farmer, Mr C Mitchell

219. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS. None expressed by members.

220. PUBLIC FORUM. None present.

221. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4th July 2018. Proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Pinnegar and agreed 5 in favour that the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th July 2018 to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

222. CODE OF CONDUCT CO-OPTED MEMBERS. Consultation documents outlining the options for the Code of Conduct had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. After some discussion it was agreed that the preferred option would be 3c as this would not require disclosure of personal and financial details. It was proposed by Cllr Pinnegar and seconded by Cllr Luker and agreed 5 in favour that the remit of the committee would be option 3c and transfer to a working group, with clerking remaining the same.

224. VACANT PLOTS. It was noted that there are 3 full plots available at Knapp Road and 8 ½ at New Road of which 3 have been strimmed and covered and will become available in the spring. This will enable new tenants to have some clear ground to start gardening their plot.

225. RECENT WORKS ON ALLOTMENTS. It was noted that the following works have been carried out by Wotton Town Council staff:

- Installed handrail at the middle steps at Knapp Road.
- Infilled steps next to Locombe Place at Knapp Road.
- Shored up path at plots 7&8 Knapp Road.
- Strimmed and covered plots 31&33 New Road.

226. PROPOSED WORKS AT KNAPP ROAD. It was noted that the following works were agreed at the Town Council Meeting on 15th October 2018.

- The bank will be strimmed and covered with a weed proof membrane approximately 2 meters from the path onto the bank.
- The hedge between the road and the allotment site will be cut and trimmed as required.
- The cherry tree on plot 4 will be removed.

Further improvements are being investigated to level the path to 90cms wide and to shore up the bank by using old sleepers. Quotes are being sought for this work.

227. TREES AT NEW ROAD. Following requests by tenants complaining of shading and poor ground quality due to the trees. Quotes were sought for the removal of the cherry tree on plot 22 and the poplar on plot 8. It was noted that the contractors would have difficulty in getting the grinding machine to the trees, so their preferred option would be to use eco plugs. The tree surgeon did raise concern that if this treatment was used for the poplar tree on plot 8, that it may kill the nearby parent tree in the hedge running down the site. It was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Luker all in favour that the quote from Tree Management for the use of eco plugs be put forward for consideration by the Town Council.

228. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2019/20 BUDGET. Following some discussion the list below was put forward by members of the committee to be considered for the budget meeting to be held later this month.

- The perimeter hedge to be cut and trimmed between Fountain Crescent, Knapp Field and Knapp Road allotments as it is becoming high and overgrown.
- Ongoing strimming and covering of vacant plots as they become vacant at both sites.
- Ongoing shoring up of paths.
- Cut and trim hedge in the centre of New Road allotments as it is becoming high and overgrown, and remove the poplar tree in the hedge as casts a large shadow on nearby plots.
- The new entrance path at New Road is suffering from water erosion due to run off in heavy rainfall. This may need additional path material or sealing.
- A new vehicular access at plot 42 New Road to allow for bulk deliveries of manure etc to the site. It was noted that this may be considered in conjunction with the car park/housing development in Symn Lane under section 106 Planning Obligations.

229. REPORT FROM KNAPP ROAD REPRESENTATIVES. None.

230. REPORT FROM NEW ROAD REPRESENTATIVES. It was noted that concern has been expressed by tenants to the possibility of half of the site being developed, as it is owned by the Stephens Trust. It was noted, that this may prove difficult for the developer, as the land is covered by a covenant and the scheme would have to show a need by the community for it to be considered.

231. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. Obtain quotes for works put forward at budget meeting. Result of meeting with contractor to discuss options with path at the main entrance to the New Road site.

232. NEXT MEETING. Wednesday 20th March 2019 at 7.30pm at later time to allow members to attend.

Signed.....Chair of the Allotments Committee

Date.....

The meeting finished at 8.00pm