



NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL'S ALLOTMENTS PARTNERSHIP HELD ON 20th MARCH 2019 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM AT THE CIVIC CENTRE AT 7.30PM.

PRESENT: Cllr P Barton (Chairman), Cllr N Pinnegar, Cllr J Turner, Cllr L Farmer.

Co-opted members: A Burns, I Jones, B Elloway. 1 Member of Public

IN ATTENDANCE Administrator Mrs D Hyam.

233. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Cllr R Claydon, P Smith, T Luker.

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

235. PUBLIC FORUM. None.

236. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14th November 2018. Proposed by Cllr Pinnegar and seconded by Cllr Turner and agreed all in favour that the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2018 to be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

237. ALLOTMENT PARTNERSHIP It was noted that the Allotments Committee will now be operating as a working group and will be known as the Allotments Partnership.

238. VACANT PLOTS. It was noted that there are 3 ½ plots available at Knapp Road and 5 at New Road. Offers will be sent shortly to two prospective tenants.

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

- Two poplar trees have been removed from plot 8 at New Road.
- Overgrown fruit tree removed from plot 20 New Road.
- The area next to plot 35 Knapp Road has been cleared and will be treated with weed killer to kill the brambles.

240. NEWSLETTER. The following items have been researched and will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

- **Use of pesticides on plots.** After checking with several local councils it appears that none ban the use of sprays but encourage tenants to use organic methods if possible. The item will have links to websites for more information and information found on the Nation Allotment Association website was circulated at the meeting.
- **No Dig Method.** Charles Dowding uses this method of gardening which requires less maintenance and is organic. There will be a link to his website in the newsletter.
- **Pest on Allotments.** There have been reports of deer on New Road allotments. Following research there are several ways that can help to deter deer such as; hanging scented soap from bushes and trees and planting strong smelling plants and herbs such as rhubarb, foxglove, delphinium, lavender, hellebore, sedum, thyme, chives, mint and sage.
- **Ticks on Allotments.** Unfortunately, ticks have been found on New Road allotments. Some can carry Lyme's Disease which left untreated can be serious a link to a website will appear in the newsletter.

241. REPORT FROM KNAPP ROAD REPRESENTATIVE. I Jones thanked the Partnership for the recent clearing works to the site and it was confirmed that the Council were hoping to widen the top path to around 90cms and shore up the bank using sleepers. It was also confirmed that the water supply would be turned on at the end of the month. It was noted that savings could be made if the water supply included a sewerage charge, as the water used soaks in the site and does not go into a sewer. Mrs Hyam to check bill details.

242. REPORT FROM NEW ROAD REPRESENTAIVES. Concern was raised with the new development next to the allotment site. It was understood that negotiations are still taking place regarding the timing of the construction of the carpark and housing development and, that it was unlikely that any 106 contribution would be received from the developer due to the content of the development.

One of the tenants had offered some water pipe with a view to extend the water supply near plots 9 and 1. Mrs Hyam is waiting for the tenant to confirm sizes and if any connections are available as it may not be compatible with the existing system.

Concern was raised that the hogging surface of the path was being eroded by wet weather. The Chairman had inspected the path and did not find a problem he will inspect it again at a later date. It was confirmed that plot inspections will take place from the end of March and it is hoped that there will be at least 3 during the year.

243. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS. It was expressed that tenants would like to have another tenants meeting to discuss issues and future plans for the sites.

Signed.....Chair of the Allotments Partnership

Date.....

The meeting finished at 8.30pm