

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON 20th FEBRUARY 2014**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.06

PRESENT: Councillors Clive Darke (Chairman) and Clive Webb

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor Raymond Armstrong, Theresa Donald (Amenities Officer), Jennifer Lawley (Committee Officer), Allotment site representatives: George Raines, Mike Phillips, Clive Wall, Mike Tansley and Kevin Pearce.

IN PART ATTENDANCE: Mary Morgan (Alliance Homes) and Mark Graham (Healthy Living Centre).

401.	<p>Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Holly Young and Councillor Tony Probert.</p> <p>Councillor Raymond Armstrong was in attendance on behalf of Councillor Young. Formal written notification of a named substitute councillor had not been received. (<i>Standing Order 25A</i>)</p> <p>Councillor Clive Webb informed of Councillor Roger Bailey's intention to attend the meeting later.</p>
402.	<p>To receive and record Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
403.	<p>To consider and approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19th December 2013.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.</p>
404.	<p>Bournville Allotments – Lottery Bid</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Mary Morgan (Alliance Homes) and Mark Graham (The Healthy Living Centre) to the meeting.</p> <p>On the 15th January 2014 a meeting was held at the Town Council offices in order to discuss the Bournville Allotment Lottery Bid – ‘Growing together on the three sites’. The</p>

	<p>meeting clarified communication routes between the Lottery Bid applicants (Alliance Homes and The Healthy Living Centre), the Town Council (who own the allotments), the Allotment Club and Allotment Site Representatives. Those present had sight of the first stage of the bid and although consultation with the Town Council had not occurred from the outset, no objections were raised. A meeting was also held between the applicants and the Allotment Club on the 1st February 2014.</p> <p>The three allotment sites involved in the bid were the community allotment in the Great Rhyne Garden allotment site, the Chocolate Garden and the Coleridge Road allotment. The intention was to bring the three sites together and the bid was for a specific sum of funding in order to employ two people over 3 years to co-ordinate the sites.</p> <p>A meeting had occurred between the applicants and Bournville residents where concerns were raised about the project. There had, however, been no further contact from residents since the meeting and, therefore, the applicants believed concerns had been addressed.</p> <p>The first stage of the bid had been successful. Copies of the document for the second stage were circulated with the request that members of the committee submit any comments to the applicants before the 7th March 2014. The document gave a clear indication of the project's aims to benefit the local community in coordinating access to productive green spaces with the delivery and enjoyment of horticultural training and education across the three sites. The second stage would be submitted before the 20th March 2014. All partners in the bid would be informed as soon as the result of the bid's second stage was known which could take up to 12 weeks.</p> <p>The Chairman thanked Mary Morgan and Mark Graham for attending the meeting and updating members of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee present.</p> <p><i>Mary Morgan and Mark Graham left the meeting at 7.10 pm.</i></p>
405.	<p>Land at Maltlands – Transfer of Land</p> <p>The report of the Amenities Officer was previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The report informed of debate that had taken place at the Community Services Committee meeting on the 6th January 2014 regarding the offer by North Somerset Council to transfer the land at The Maltlands, Locking Castle, to the Town Council for the use as allotments. The Community Services Committee had resolved to consult with the Allotments Club in consideration of North Somerset Council's proposal to transfer the land at a cost of £1.00.</p> <p>The Town Clerk has contacted North Somerset Council to investigate whether there are restrictions on alternative use of the land such as a Community Orchard under the regulations of Section 106 (S106 Planning Obligation Modification and Discharge). A response was awaited.</p>

	<p>Debate ensued during which concerns were raised regarding the cost of fencing, the legal fees involved, the maintenance of the site and vandalism.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Allotment Management Sub-Committee defers recommendation regarding the transfer of land at The Maltlands until Allotment Club members are consulted at the next Allotment Club meeting on the 18th March 2014. 2. The outcome of consultation with Allotment Club members regarding the transfer of land at The Maltlands be reported back to the next meeting of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee on the 20th March 2014.
406.	<p>Hutton Moor Allotments – Damage by Badgers</p> <p>The email from Country Contracts, noted at the last meeting of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee, was previously circulated with the agenda to further consider Country Contracts’ recommendations. A report from PJ Structural Engineers was tabled.</p> <p>The site representative of Hutton Moor Allotments reported that he continued to keep a watching brief of badger activity and damage caused to the roadway, but to-date there had been no change.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the Structural Engineer’s recommendations and his site visit to further assess the damage caused by badgers in consideration of road safety for access by vehicles. The report recommended that access be restricted to passenger vehicles; that warning signs be erected; weekly inspections undertaken in conjunction with inspections after periods of heavy rain and in the longer term the badger sett relocated and full repairs undertaken.</p> <p>Members revisited Country Contracts’ recommendations for a temporary solution of a metal plate placed over the depression in the track surface, the preferred option being to exclude the badgers, remove the track surface and replace with a reinforced concrete slab. A Licence to exclude the badgers would need to be secured and members debated the timescales involved in applying for a Licence.</p> <p>Hutton Moor Allotments require gravel for the holes flooded on the roadway. Debate ensued on the amount of gravel required and the difficulty of delivery in view of access restrictions to the site. Various proposals for delivery of the gravel were put forward.</p> <p>RESOLVED that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The report and recommendations of the Structural Engineer be noted. 2. The Site Representative of Hutton Moor Allotments continues a watching brief of badger activity and the damage caused to the roadway. 3. The Amenities Officer communicates with the Grounds Manager regarding the delivery of gravel to Hutton Moor Allotments.

407.	<p>Kewstoke Allotments – Site Visit</p> <p>The Amenities Officer confirmed that a site visit had been undertaken in response to the request for more gravel for holes in the roadway.</p> <p>Members were advised that budget for the purchase of more gravel was unavailable until the new financial year in April 2014 and the request to purchase more gravel would require the Policy & Finance Committee’s approval. However, the Amenities Officer informed that Milton Cemetery were currently clearing the site and crushing broken stone. The crushed stones could be sourced for Kewstoke Allotments’ use. If the amount of crushed stone was insufficient, the purchase and delivery of more gravel to ‘top up’ would have to wait until the next financial year in April 2014.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Amenities Officer organises the delivery of crushed stone, sourced from Milton Cemetery, to Kewstoke Allotments with a timescale of approximately 3 weeks.</p>
408.	<p>To receive verbal reports from Allotment Site Representatives:-</p> <p>i) Rectors Way - Clive Wall</p> <p>Members were advised that dredging the rhyne had avoided flooding and there were no major problems. It was noted that next year, some trees would require removal from the site.</p> <p>ii) Redpits – Mike Tansey</p> <p>The site representative reported that there were no problems in view of the excessive weather conditions recently, except for the collection of bin lids.</p> <p>iii) Kewstoke – Mike Phillips</p> <p>A tree had been blown down and across an allotment but this had been cut up and burnt. The tree was rotten and the site representative advised that there were a few more trees on site which were also rotten.</p> <p>iv) Hutton Moor - George Raines</p> <p>The site representative required approval and confirmation of proposed action to be taken with regard to an allotment tenancy and sub-letting.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Amenities Officer contacts the Town Clerk in order to seek advice on Allotment Terms and Conditions in respect of tenancy and sub-letting, and reports back to the Hutton Moor site representative.</p> <p>v) Bournville – George Raines on behalf of Cheryl Puttman</p> <p>Three troughs have been installed at a cost of £1000 which are up and running.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Allotment Club wished his thanks to be noted in acknowledgement of</p>

	<p>plot holders' contribution to the Cherry Orchard.</p> <p>vi) Old Mill Way – George Raines</p> <p>'Bust a Stump' have not yet been contacted as the tree stumps to be removed are under water.</p> <p>The Amenities Officer informed that the transfer of the freehold was now complete.</p>
409.	<p>To receive and consider details of the current Allotment Waiting List</p> <p>A list of the Allotment Club summary sheet at 20th February 2014 was tabled.</p> <p>Total plot requests @ 20th February 2014:</p> <p>Hutton 4 Clarkes 22 Redpits 14 Kewstoke 17 Bournville 1 Locking Castle 14</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the number of individual residents requesting allotment plots be noted.</p>
	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>The date of the next meeting was scheduled for the 20th March 2014 at 7.00 pm</p>
	<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.06 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p>Chairman</p>

Terry Smart who founded the Allotment Club had died. Members gave their condolences.