

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE TOWN COUNCIL
NOTES OF THE ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT
SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT GROVE HOUSE ON 13th SEPTEMBER 2017**

Meeting Commenced: 7.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.05 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Roger Bailey (Chairman), Ray Armstrong, Richard Tucker and Clive Webb.

Non-Voting co-opted members: George Raines, (Chairman of the Allotment Club) and allotment managers: Mike Tansley (Redpits), Mike Philips(Kewstoke), Jenny Nichols (Old Mill Way), Clive Wall (Rectors Way)

IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Thurston (Grounds Manager) and Tricia Brabham (Committee Officer)

150	<p>Apologies for absence and notification of substitutes</p> <p>Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Len Purnell and Robert Cleland.</p> <p>Apologies were also received from Theresa Donald (Amenities Officer), Frank Gould and Kevin Pearse.</p>
151	<p>Declarations of interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest received.</p>
152	<p>Minutes of the last meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 14th June 2017 had been previously circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.</p>
153	<p>Grounds Manager update</p> <p>Flower Show The Grounds Manager advised members that the remaining certificates from the Flower Show had been posted out.</p> <p>Trees at Kewstoke Allotment The Grounds Manager advised that following concerns raised at the last meeting about trees at Kewstoke allotment, he had visited the site with the Amenities Officer and were in agreement that at the bottom of the site, by the shed the trees did need to be cut back. They didn't feel the trees by the path caused enough shade to be of concern. The site manager raised concern that the tree branches were quite low and could be an issue.</p> <p>Hutton Moor Access Road The Grounds Manager advised that following the problems with badgers making the ground unstable that had been experienced previously, he would be reluctant to risk moving the fence to widen the access road. The kerbs could be moved back and angled to align with the existing bollard. to provide more room. The Chairman of the Allotment</p>

Club agreed this would provide adequate space. The Grounds Manager advised he would liaise with the Club Chairman and if the costs were reasonable he would pursue this option.

Flooding at Old Mill Way

The Grounds Manager advised the Chairman of the Allotment Club and the site manager had met with Phil Joles to look for the outlets into the sump. The outlets were two foot above the water level, and he advised that this was the level of the water table. The Grounds Manager provided the Chairman of the Allotment Club with plans for the allotment site to see where drains were located. The Grounds Manager explained that these were the only plans that they had been able to locate.

The site manager advised that an engineer had also visited the site and looked at the conservation area and the culvert and advised he thought it drained from the Sainsbury end and wasn't draining into the sump.

The Grounds Manager advised he would contact Phil Joles for an update following the visit with the engineer. The Town Council had section 106 money for the allotment site so they may be able to use it to help the flooding issues.

Debate ensued over how much Section 106 the Town Council had. The Grounds Manager advised he would consult the finance team and get a breakdown of what money had been received. A breakdown of what had been spent had been previously provided to the committee.

Bournville allotments

The Grounds Manager advised that the Fire Brigade had accessed the school site to put out the fire on the allotment, and in the process damaged the school gate. The arson was by a person unknown and the Town Council was not responsible for the actions of the fire brigade, so it would be down to the schools insurers to cover the damage.

The Grounds Manager advised that Alliance Homes had repaired the fence at the allotment site with 1.8m high fencing. They had advised that putting barbed wire on top would be illegal. The Grounds Manager advised he did not believe it to be illegal but that it had to be clearly visible and not concealed. The Grounds team would seek to clarify this point and hopefully get agreement to re-instate a similar level of security.

The Grounds Manager advised that the Town Clerk had suggested that to avoid similar arson incidents the process of clearing the site should be delayed till the end of September as bonfires could not be lit until October. Representatives from the Allotments Club expressed doubt that this could be achieved because of the need to maintain clear sites for plot letting.

Weston College

The Grounds Manger advised that he had been approached by Weston College enquiring if any allotments were available to help with their work with students. The Chairman of the Allotment Club advised that the Brandon Trust already had plots and the College should contact them.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted.

154	<p>Issues arising from the Town Council/Allotment Club Agreement</p> <p>There were no issues raised.</p>
155	<p>To receive verbal reports from allotment site managers:</p> <p>Rectors Way – Clive Wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the trees in the carpark needed to be cut back • In 12 months time the rhyme will need doing again. The Town Council organized this however the Allotment Club had previously paid half the £2000 cost. • A memorial bench for the allotment site was being stored in a greenhouse. The Chairman of the Allotment Committee to contact the family of the deceased to enquire if they would like to view the bench when it had been installed in its final location. <p>Redpits – Mike Tansley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existing bench had been moved and a bush cut back to clear space for parking. <p><i>7.48pm Councillors Bailey and Webb left the room</i> <i>7.50pm Councillor Bailey returned</i></p> <p>Kewstoke – Mike Phillips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The gate had dropped and you couldn't open or shut it. Had happened previously and was fixed but needs to be done again. • One plot owner was going to be asked to vacate the site as not maintaining it <p>Hutton Moor – George Raines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The access road needs some more stone where the surface has dropped again after the badger works. The Grounds Manager confirmed that he would arrange for some additional stone to be supplied. • The isolated poplar tree is huge and he was concerned about its safety. The Grounds manager advised he would review the report from the tree expert and contact him about the concerns. • All plots are full. • Stone is being put down on the track and they are getting the sides trimmed. <p>Bournville – George Raines in the absence of the site manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently two empty plots. <p>Old Mill Way – Jenny Nichols</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility that a plot will be vacated soon due to health reasons • For the first time they were experiencing a large amount of fruit being stolen from trees, whole trees had been stripped of apples. • A former plot owner is still in possession of a key and has not returned it. The Town Clerk has written to them requesting the key is returned.

156	To receive and consider details of the current Allotment Waiting List			
	No of individual residents requesting allotment plots	33	Adjustment @13th September 2017	Second Plot Requests
	Total Plot Requests	52		9
	Hutton	7	8	2
	Clarke	17		0
	Redpits	10		4
	Kewstoke	4		0
	Bourneville	9		2
	Locking Castle	5		2
	<p>RESOLVED: The number of individual residents requesting allotment plots be noted.</p>			
<p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.</p> <p>The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 6th December 2017 at 7.00 pm.</p>				

Signed..... Dated.....
Chairman