

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

Meeting Commenced: 7.35 pm

Meeting Concluded: 8.34 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Clive Darke (Chairman), Roger Bailey (Vice Chairman) and Holly Young

IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa Donald (Amenities Officer), Jennifer Lawley (Committee Officer),
Allotment site representatives: George Raines, Clive Wall and Mike Tansey

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 454. | Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Tony Probert and Cyril King together with members of the Allotment Club, Mike Phillips and Kevin Pearce |
| 455. | To receive and record Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest received. <i>Councillor Bailey joined the meeting at 7.38 pm</i> |
| 456. | To consider and approve the accuracy of the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 20th February 2014. RESOLVED that: The minutes be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman. |
| 457. | Land at Maltlands – Transfer of Land At the last meeting of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee on the 20 th February 2014, a resolution was passed to defer recommendations regarding the transfer of land at The Maltlands until Allotment Club members had been consulted. George Raines confirmed that the Allotment Club had met on the 18 th March 2014 and that he was in attendance. The Allotment Club rejected the proposal for the acquisition of land at The Maltlands as allotments. The Allotment Club’s recommendation was the result of debate which considered the amount of work involved to establish the site, the acreage, the number of allotment plots, the high cost of maintenance, vandalism and security. Debate ensued during which members were informed that the Community Services Committee had met on the 17 th March 2014. The Community Services Committee had resolved that: 1. The land should remain community land. |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>2. The recommendations resolved by the Allotment Management Sub-Committee after consultation with the Allotment Club should be received by the Town Clerk.</p> <p>3. The Town Clerk communicates with North Somerset Council to further investigate alternative use with the proposal that the land remains as a green, open space.</p> <p>A vote was taken and carried. Accordingly it was unanimously:</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Allotment Management Sub-Committee in consultation with the Allotment Club, declines North Somerset Council's offer to transfer the land at The Maltlands to the Town Council at a cost of £1.00 for the use as allotments.</p> |
| <p>458.</p> | <p>Hutton Moor Allotments</p> <p>The Amenities Officer confirmed that due to the activity of the badger sett, the Town Council were finally forced to close vehicle access to the allotments for safety reasons due to the subsidence and collapse of the access road. Natural England had been contacted and all necessary papers completed. The Amenities Officer informed that if it could be proven that the badgers had died during the collapse or had moved on and an officer of Natural England visits the site, work could commence to make good the access road earlier than July.</p> <p>Badger activity and the subsidence issues were raised nearly over two years ago as recorded in previous minutes of the Allotment Management Sub-Committee with debate in recent months on a watching brief, a licence to remove or move on the badger sett together with the work that was required to make good the access road. The issue was now critical. George Raines was unsure whether the badger sett was currently active or whether the badgers had died during the collapse. Members were advised of the method used to ascertain whether a badger sett was active during the badger cull on the Somerset Levels in order.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the costs involved to implement the removal of the badgers with the issuing of a licence and the work necessary to make good the access road. Budget was not available until the next financial year commencing 1st April 2014.</p> <p>Members were advised that a Hutton Moor allotment plot holder had been informed that Natural England were due to visit the site next week. There was confusion as to whether this was hearsay as the Amenities Officer had only recently completed the paperwork.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Amenities Officer contacts the Town Council's Surveyor to clarify information regarding Natural England's visit to Hutton Moor allotments.</p> |
| <p>459.</p> | <p>Kewstoke Allotments</p> <p>The delivery of crushed stone sourced from Milton Cemetery for use by Kewstoke</p> |

| | |
|-------------|--|
| | <p>allotment as infill for potholes, had not transpired as resolved in the minutes of the 20th February 2014. This was due to the stone not being ‘clean stone’ with attached soil which would cause problems with the crusher. Members were informed that the delivery of stone for infill would have to wait until the 1st April 2014 when funds were available in the financial year 2014/15. The Amenities Officer advised of the current overspend. The Allotment Management Sub-Committee, in the Chairman’s opinion, had a budget that was unsustainable. The Chairman was mindful of monies held by North Somerset Council and the circumstances surrounding Persimmon’s financial contribution to the Town Council for the setting up of Old Mill Way allotments.</p> <p>Debate ensued.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Town Clerk negotiates with North Somerset Council to be able to use the funding, contributed to the Town Council by Persimmon for the setting up of Old Mill Way allotments, in order to invest in other Town Council allotment sites.</p> |
| <p>460.</p> | <p>Old Mill Way</p> <p>Members were informed that the removal of tree stumps at Old Mill Way allotments was scheduled to commence on Monday the 24th March 2014.</p> <p>Debate ensued on the track leading to the Nature Reserve. A wall at Milton Road Cemetery was scheduled to be lowered. The plan was to crush the removed stone for distribution to other Town Council allotment sites. The contractor has been instructed to supply a quote regarding the repairs to the track. Funds are available for works to be carried out.</p> |
| <p>461.</p> | <p>To receive verbal reports from Allotment Site Representatives:-</p> <p>Members were informed that:</p> <p>461.1 Rectors Way - Clive Wall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All plots were let. • There were no problems reported except that a fox gained access to a chicken coop on one of the allotment plots with the inevitable result. <p>461.2 Redpits – Mike Tansey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were no problems reported. <p>461.3 Kewstoke – George Raines on behalf of Mike Phillips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact had been made about the fencing. • One plot was not being used due to illness of the plot holder. |

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| | <p>461.4 Hutton Moor - George Raines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There had been a break in and although the culprit was seen and chased, he escaped over a fence. • The allotment tenant who moved away from the town was notified of the cessation of his tenancy, effective on the 31st March 2014, with the request that he return his key. A response was awaited. <p>461.5 Bournville – George Raines on behalf of Cheryl Puttman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No problems had been reported. <p>Debate returned to the Lottery Bid, ‘Growing together on three sites’ - and concerns raised on the ratio of students to instructor in consideration of the project and the involvement of diverse groups and organisations.</p> <p>RESOLVED that: The Town Clerk writes to the applicants of the Lottery Bid (Alliance Homes and The Healthy Living Centre) to recommend the ratio of students to instructor of 4 or 5 to 1.</p> <p>461.6 Old Mill Way – George Raines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The allotment was ‘up and running’ and 11 more plots had been marked out. |
| <p>462.</p> | <p>To receive and consider details of the current Allotment Waiting List</p> <p>A list of the Allotment Club summary sheet at 20th March 2014 was tabled.</p> <p>Total plot requests @ 20th March 2014:</p> <p>Hutton 4 Clarkes 18 Redpits 12 Kewstoke 13 Bournville 4 Old Mill Way 5</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 to be arranged when more information was available on the badger situation at Hutton Moor.</p> |
| | <p>There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.34 pm.</p> <p>Signed: Dated:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Chairman</p> |