

WORKINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of Workington Town Council Allotments Committee held at 10am Thursday 9 January 2014 in the Town Hall, Workington.

C Armstrong (chair)	Present
B Cannon	Apologies
W Bacon	Present
J Bracken	Present
E Johnsen	Present
M Jones	Present
A Lawson	Absent
B Miskelly	Apologies
J Wright (vice chair)	Present
(Vacancy)	

A13.40. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs B Cannon and B Miskelly.

A13.41. Declarations of Interest

None were received.

A13.42 Exclusion of Press and Public (Public Bodies Admission to Meetings Act 1960)

None

A13.43 Minutes of the previous meeting

The committee received the minutes of the meeting on 24 October 2013.

Resolved: To affirm them as a true record.

A13.44 Service Plan and Budget

The committee considered a draft service plan and budget for the coming three years.

Resolved: To recommend the budget and service plan appended to these minutes.

A13.45 Bee Project

The clerk reported that the Allerdale Urban Bee Project, being promoted by two allotment tenants from Newlands Lane, had been found a site on borough council land in the walled garden in Curwen Park. The clerk was continuing to help the project as well as he could and felt it was appropriate, since it no longer required Town Council allotment space, to commend it to the Environment Committee for financial support.

A13.46. Noticeboards

The Clerk reported that the noticeboards were now expected on 10 January 2014 and the Senior Estate Worker would begin erecting them as soon as the weather allowed.

Resolved: to note the update.

A13.47. Fencing

The Clerk reported that the re-fencing of Newlands Lane, Feenans and Annie Pit would commence as soon as planning permission was obtained. It was queried whether the Annie Pit fencing could come sooner. It was noted that the Planning Permission was sought for all the sites, and timings would relate to capacity rather than budget.

Resolved: to note the update.

A13.48. Longer Term Occupancy of the Allotment Estate

The Clerk reported that he was scheduled for a meeting with the Borough Property Officer on 16 January to go through the site plans. It was noted that Northside required further discussion with the Borough Council and that a potential community asset transfer of County Council land required following up.

Resolved: to note the update.

A13.49. Allotment Rents for 2014 and 2014-15

The committee considered the Allotment Rents for April 2014 to November 2014 and for November 2014 to November 2015.

It was noted that the rents had increased annually for a number of years, and that it was expected that revenue funded expenditure was expected to decrease slightly in the coming year. On this basis it was suggested that rents be held for the coming two year cycle. It was further noted that the rents for 2014 would run from April to November, with the new allotment year commencing on 1 November 2014.

The issue of dog breeders and pigeon racers was raised – should they pay the same rent and have the same contract as ordinary garden tenants. It was suggested different conditions should apply.

It was observed that the current contract was quite dense and perhaps required a summary for tenants.

Resolved: To make no increase in allotment rents for 2014 and Rents for 2014-15 would be reviewed in the summer, but would include water charges.

Resolved: To draw up new tenancies for dog and pigeon breeders.

Resolved: To review the wording of the current tenancy agreements and include a summary for tenants.

A13.50. Review of the Sites

The committee considered the issues relating to each site:

a) Soapery

There was a query about the occupation of the garage at the entrance to the site. It appears to be occupied by a builder.

Resolved: To charge the occupant rent. This should be actioned within three months.

The issue of steps into the beck for water was discussed. It was suggested that they were replacement steps and that Cllr Johnsen had discussed with the Environment Agency how new ones might be put in place without the requirement for main river work permission.

Resolved: Cllr Johnsen to liaise with officers over new steps.

b) Northside

It was noted that there had been some storm damage, and some work to assert a tenant's occupancy. A meeting is required with the Borough Council to develop a plan for the site.

c) Stoneleigh

It was noted that the council had asked for a tenancy on this site. Assuming this is forthcoming, the site can be tidied up and re-let, with secure fencing and a gate. It was suggested that Derwent & Solway are approached to renew the fencing on their car park.

d) Newlands Lane

The site would probably be first to benefit from troughs for water management.

e) Cranbourne Street

No current issues were noted, beyond those usually associated with the site and previously discussed.

f) Mountain View

There had been some storm damage. Water management suggested water was being used by a tenant.

g) Annie Pit

The pigeon men had reported that they were opposed to the deployment of troughs because of the threat of contamination. This would require further research and planning.

h) Feenans

No new issues reported.

i) Beeby Street

The water bill was being challenged with United Utilities. No other new issues were reported.

j) Park Lane

No new issues reported.

A13.51. Other issues

It was suggested a Site Visit should be arranged for March accompanied by the Senior Estate Worker.

Resolved: To arrange the timetable for visits

The meeting closed at 11.42am.