

Workington Town Council

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Minutes of the Allotment Sub-Committee of Workington Town Council, 10am on 9 January 2018 in Town Hall, Workington

D Rollo (Chair)	Present
B Cannon	Apologies
B Dixon	Absent
P McHarry	Apologies
A McGuckin	Absent
B Miskelly	Present
J Osborn	Apologies
B Reville	Present
T Wardley	Absent

In attendance: Town Clerk, Assistant Town Clerk, Estate Team Leader

Also in attendance: 3 members of the public

A17.11 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs B Cannon, P McHarry and J Osborn.

A17.12 Declarations of Interest

Cllr D Rollo raised a declaration of interest as an allotment holder on Soapery allotment site.

Resolved: For Cllr D Rollo to remove herself from any discussion specific to Soapery allotment site.

A17.13 Exclusion of Press and Public

It was agreed to hold the meeting entirely in the public domain.

A17.14 Allotments Report

The Estate Team Leader made a presentation covering the developments on the Council's allotment estate over the past 11 months. It was noted that there were fewer tenants in attendance and the Estate Leader reported that she was continuing to request representatives from each allotment site. She highlighted that waiting lists had halved by introducing a new application and site specific waiting list system. A number of plot renovations had progressed; involving extensive clearance of long term neglected plots. Future recycling and waste disposal plans were discussed including hosting a secure area to dispose of general and hazardous waste and ways to ease asbestos clearance. There were a number of queries about the best solution to clear asbestos, the Estate Leader noted that she was making enquiries to train estate staff and would be producing a fact sheet to be included in the second part of the Allotment Handbook. Updates to the site clearance at Feenans and Northside

and the installation of new fencing were presented. This included progress towards obtaining soil contamination reports and setting fencing priorities. A number of concerns about water usage on Northside site were raised. The chair noted that the Council should be promoting environmental sustainability. It was proposed that this should be explored further by the Environment Committee to set a goal for a sustainable water supply on all sites for the future. It was also reported that the Estate Team had opened a consultation for the re-alignment of plots at Rosehill site; this would provide tenants with the opportunity to specify the size of their plot, with prices to reflect the plot size per square metre. This led to discussion about the use of obsolete plots, the Estate Leader highlighted that she had been looking into introducing flowers to encourage bees and promote bio diversity on these areas.

Resolved: To feedback on the report to the Environment Committee, highlighting development in water, training and biodiversity.

A17.15 Vegetable Growing Competition

The Estate Team Leader reported that the vegetable growing competition was being planned for September, and suggested that this be held at the Bolton Street Community Hall. She highlighted that the planning would benefit from a committee to set a date for the competition and to design the rules and categories. Councillors suggested opening up the competition to include categories for children and other amateur gardeners. It was noted that judging categories should be decided by a committee rather than Officers.

Resolved: To convene a committee meeting to design the Vegetable Growing Competition.

The meeting closed at 11:10