



## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sandlands Allotments Sub-Committee held at Seagrove Pavilion, Seaview on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 6.00pm.

(These Minutes are unconfirmed and are not an official record until signed)

Present: Mrs Sue Garner (Chairman), Mr Ken Allen, Mrs Margaret Crossby, Mr Nick Hewitt and Cllr Geernaert-Davies.

### 21/07 – 1: To Elect Chairman and Vice Chairman of Allotment Sub Committee:

Mrs Sue Garner was nominated to be Chairman by Mrs Margaret Crossby, this was seconded and the motion was carried. The Chairman thanked the members for re-electing her to the role and promised to carry on with the work she was undertaking on behalf of the allotment community. As Cllr(s) Jenkins and Rogers were unavailable to attend the meeting, the Chairman suggested postponing the election until the next meeting to give more members a chance to be nominated.

### 21/07 – 2: Apologies for Absence:

Cllr(s) Jenkins and Rogers were unavailable.

### 21/07 – 3: Minutes:

Mrs Garner proposed that the minutes of the previous sub-committee meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019 be agreed with the no amendments. This was seconded by Mr Allen and agreed unanimously.

### 21/07 – 4: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk updated the members with regards to the Christmas Tree that had been removed from between plots 64a and 64b. It had been assessed by a tree surgeon and was deemed to be unhealthy and a hazard – it was removed at a cost of £500.

### 21/07 – 5: Plot Rents for 2021/22

The Chairman asked the Clerk to confirm the financial position of the allotment and the Clerk confirmed that the allotment had finished the previous financial

year in the black (see item 21/07-6) - it was resolved not to change the rental for plots in the upcoming season.

21/07 – 6: To receive the Financial Report for 2020/21:

The Clerk shared the end of year financial position with the members – attached to these minutes as Appendix A.

21/07 – 7: To note the virtual decisions made during lockdown:

The Clerk circulated the decisions made during the Pandemic Lockdown – attached to these minutes as Appendix B.

21/07 – 8: To discuss the future of plots identified as requiring cultivation in the latest inspection:

The Chairman informed the meeting that the latest inspection had been carried out by committee members and the Clerk in the afternoon preceding the meeting. The Chairman was extremely pleased to see how some newer members had returned plots to their former glories and that the majority of allotment holders kept up the regular cultivating required to maintain their tenancy's. A few plots had been identified as being in breach of their tenancy agreements and the Clerk would be writing to the plotholders with a notice to quit.

21/07 – 9: To clarify the committee's position on vehicle access to the allotment:

The Chairman wished to remind tenants that vehicular access to the allotment is a privilege and not an automatic right. If some members continue to exercise poor judgement and drive into the site when it is flooded and/or muddy (resulting in damage to the public right of way that runs through the allotment) there is a very real possibility that the Isle of Wight Council 'Rights of Way' team may step in and restrict access to the site. The Chairman also wished to remind tenants that after using the vehicle access gate, the gate combination needs to be scrambled after use and the chains put through the gate correctly.

21/07 – 10: To discuss and agree a rental payment cut-off date of 30<sup>th</sup> September:

The Chairman expressed frustration that although the tenancy agreement clearly states that tenants have 30 days in which to pay their rent (due 1<sup>st</sup> September each year) there were a number of tenants who persistently took much longer to settle their annual account and it wastes a great deal of the Chairman and Clerk's time chasing them up. The Chairman proposed that the wording of the renewal letters should be changed to make it clear that if plot holders do not settle their account by September 30<sup>th</sup>, the eviction process will be triggered – the resolution was passed by the committee.

21/07 – 11: To consider an allotment picnic on August 21st 2021:

The Chairman suggested that a 'Bring Your Own Food, Drink and Chair' picnic could be hosted at the allotment on Saturday August 21<sup>st</sup> from 12 noon until 4pm

– weather dependent. The suggestion was met with approval and the Chairman will put notices up advertising the event.

21/07 – 12: To consider reintroducing an allotment competition:

The Chairman explained that there were some trophies from previously run competitions in circulation and could probably be re-used for a new set of competitions. The Chairman will head up a working group to examine what categories could exist and how they will be judged.

21/07 – 13: Correspondence:

The Clerk had no new correspondence to share with the members.

21/07 – 14: Open Forum:

The Chairman opened the item by explaining that whilst allotment holders may have got used to seeing her around during the Lockdown, she was back working full time now and that allotment holders should really be trying to resolve minor disputes/issues with other plot holders themselves as she does not have time to get involved. Cllr Geernaert-Davies asked how vacant plots were advertised and assigned – the Clerk explained that contact details are on the website and that the Clerk runs a waiting list and assigns the plots on a first come, first served basis – there currently is a waiting list with nine people on. Mrs Crossby suggested that it might be a good idea to introduce the concept of ‘nursery plots’ for new members who may not have the experience required to manage a larger plot – a working group will be formed to flesh out the concept and bring the proposal to a future committee meeting. A member of the public asked if they could be emailed notice of the allotment committee meetings – the Clerk explained that if tenants sign up to the ‘newsletter feature’ on the parish council website, they will be emailed when new items (news of meetings etc.) are added to the site. Finally, a newer tenant expressed their thanks for how welcoming existing members of the community had been when they took on their plot this year.

21/07 – 15: Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – 6pm at Seagrove Pavilion.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.35pm

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Chairman - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021