



NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sandlands Allotments Sub-Committee held at Seagrove Pavilion, Seaview on 9th November 2021 at 6.00pm.

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

Present: Mrs Sue Garner (Chair), Mr Ken Allen, Mrs Margaret Crosby and Mr Nick Hewitt.

21/11 – 1: Apologies for Absence:

Cllr(s) Geernaert-Davies and Rogers were unavailable for personal reasons.

21/11 – 2: Minutes:

Mrs Garner proposed that the minutes of the previous sub-committee meeting held on 27th July 2021 be agreed with the no amendments. This was seconded by Mrs Crosby and agreed unanimously.

21/11 – 3: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk gave the members an update on the financial position of the allotment, the number of plots currently available and the waiting list members who are being invited to take on those plots.

21/11 – 4: To Elect a Vice Chair of the Allotment Sub Committee:

Mrs Margaret Crosby was nominated to be Vice-Chair by Mrs Sue Garner, this was seconded and the motion was carried.

21/11 – 5: Nursery Beds

The Chair explained that she and her husband had personally taken on plot 42, specifically to turn the majority of it into nursery beds and encourage people to get involved in allotment keeping. Currently, the plan is to provide eight small 'nursery beds' for people who would like to try their hand at keeping a plot before committing to a full plot. These 'nursery beds' will not be offered with an official tenancy agreement or be charged rental for, rather, people will be invited to look after them (January to December, in the year they start tending the bed) and should they choose, they can make a donation towards funding the re-launched 'Allotment Competitions' – see item 21/11-9.

21/11 – 6: To Clarify the Committee's position on Tenancy Clause 3.1:

The Clerk explained that currently, tenancy clause 3.1 means 'that the tenancy ends when the tenant passes away' and that there is no provision for it remaining within a family. This is an extremely sensitive situation and the committee always looks to give

the family until the end of the year to make arrangements for clearing the plots etc. – indeed, if someone passes away shortly before renewal time, this time period is extended by a few months as the family will undoubtedly have more pressing matters to attend to at first. If the tenancy is in joint names, then of course, this does not trigger the clause and the assumption is that the partner on the tenancy will continue to manage the plot. The committee wished to clarify that, if there is no other name on the tenancy, clause 3.1 will be enacted and it may be in the interest of some plot holders who do manage their plot as a partnership to contact the Clerk so that their records can be updated accordingly.

21/11 – 7: Vehicle Access to the Allotment:

The Chair reminded the meeting that vehicular access to the allotments is a privilege that the Isle of Wight Council 'Right's of Way' department could take away from the allotment if vehicles make the pathway too difficult for pedestrians to walk along during the winter months. Plainly worded signs will be put on the gate and noticeboard as a reminder to persistent vehicle users.

21/11 – 8: Correspondence:

No correspondence had been received.

21/11 – 9: Open Forum

The Chair expressed a desire for allotment competitions to be restarted – she had located the trophies that had not been used for some decades and was hoping someone might volunteer to clean up the trophies and help run the competitions. The Chair suggested that four competitions might be appropriate and hoped that two of them might be the 'Onion Cup' and 'Dahlia Cup' and is open to suggestions for others e.g. 'Best Newcomer', 'Best Kept', 'Best Innovation' etc. Ideally, the Chair would like two volunteers to help run the competitions.

Mr Allen mentioned the overgrown weeds and Mares Tail on the corner near Plot 1 – the Clerk will contact Brighstone again to ask them to address them.

A tenant mentioned that they had seen another plot holder pouring an excessive amount of chemicals on their plot – this is in contravention to tenancy clause 2.26 so a sign will be put up to remind plot holders of their responsibilities.

The Chair shared that the next major inspection of all plots will take place at the end of November.

21/11 – 10: To Set the Date of the Next Meeting:

The Clerk explained that the date of Annual Parish Council and Annual Parish meetings had not been set for next year yet so a date will be picked (in conjunction with the Chairman) in May/June time and advertised on the website, allotment noticeboards and parish council noticeboard.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.25pm

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Chair - __ May 2022