



## NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sandlands Allotments Committee held at St Peters Church Hall, Seaview on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 at 6.00pm.

Present: Mrs Sue Garner (Chair), Mr Nick Hewitt and Cllr Geernaert-Davies.

### 22/07 – 1: To Elect Chair and Vice Chair of Allotment Sub Committee:

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

### 22/07 – 2: Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Rogers, Mr Ken Allen and Mrs Margaret Crossby sent their apologies.

### 22/07 – 3: Minutes:

Mrs Garner proposed that the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 9th November 2021 be agreed with the no amendments. This was seconded and agreed unanimously.

### 22/07 – 4: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk gave a report on the tree removal in the last year and the current length of the waiting list – it has reduced considerably since pandemic lockdowns were ended but still has more people waiting than plots available.

### 22/07 – 5: Plot Rents for 2022/23

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 a healthy position (see item 22/07-7) so no immediate increase in rental is required. The Clerk did explain though, that in their position as Responsible Finance Officer, they were aware that inflation is high and costs are increasing steadily so this may need to be reviewed next year.

22/07 – 6: To receive the Financial Report for 2021/22:

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

22/07 – 7: To discuss the future of plots identified as requiring cultivation in the latest inspection:

The Chair informed the meeting that the latest inspection had been carried out by committee members and the Clerk in the afternoon preceding the rescheduled meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The inspection had resulted in several warnings and the final notice for some uncultivated plots. The Chair clarified that cultivation is an all year round task (as per the tenancy agreement) and that from now on, if tenants did not attend their plots for three months at any time (without a reasonable explanation e.g. health grounds) then they will be issued with a notice to quit. The Clerk confirmed that this was a courtesy as the tenancy agreement allows a tenancy to be ended after four weeks without cultivation.

22/07 – 8: To discuss and set the date for the next meeting of the Committee

The next meeting of the Committee will be on the 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 6pm.

22/07 – 9: Open Forum:

After discussion with the gathered members, the Chair clarified that from now on, any charity wishing to collect produce from plot holders at the allotment, can only do so in a 'passive' manner i.e. by leaving a receptacle for tenants to voluntarily fill – proactive request to tenants or entering plots to remove produce, will not be tolerated. Some maintenance items (hedges and gates) were brought to the Clerks attention – they will be reported to the Isle of Wight Council – Rights of Way team. The Chair reminded plot holders of competition deadlines and thanked the allotment members who had generously given up their time and helped to reestablish the competitions. One plot holder mentioned that a friend of theirs is looking to re-home hedgehogs from a sanctuary.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.45pm

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Chair - 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022