



NETTLESTONE AND SEAVIEW PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Sandlands Allotments Committee held at Seagrove Pavilion, Seaview on 14th November 2023 at 6.00pm.

Present: Mrs Sue Garner (Chair), Mrs Margaret Crosby, Cllr Rogers and Cllr Geernaert-Davies.

23/11 – 1: Apologies for Absence:

Mr Nick Hewitt sent his apologies and Mr Ken Allen confirmed his resignation from the Committee due to giving up his plots. The Committee extended their thanks to Mr Allen for his service and giving the plots back in such good condition.

23/11 – 2: Minutes:

The Chair proposed that the minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 4th July 2023 be agreed with no amendments. This was seconded and agreed unanimously.

23/11 – 3: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported that the change-over to the online system had gone well with only a handful of tenants requiring physical post to receive their renewal invoices. To date, there are only two plots left to pay for their rental. There are two half plots and two full plots available to rent and the Clerk has been advertising them in the Beacon and Parish magazine.

23/11 – 4: Open Forum:

The Chair said that the Committee had received a lot of positive feedback from the public and former plot holders as to how well cared for the allotment appeared to be currently.

The Chair also explained that 'paper eating' snails had started to destroy notices in the noticeboard so the Clerk will laminate important long term notices.

A plot holder expressed their disappointment and annoyance at a warning letter they had received nine months previously (February 2023) as they believed they had done all that was required to prevent a warning needing to be issued. The Chair explained that warning letters were not sent lightly. The plot holder requested further details as to what had been wrong. The Clerk suggested that in future photographs could be taken of plots so if tenants were unhappy at receiving warning letters, there would be a visual record of the plot's condition at the time the letter was issued and the issues could be discussed with a frame of reference. The Chair agreed that this would be a good idea.

The plot holder then requested a breakdown of the legislative requirements for the Council to run an allotment, which the Clerk explained. The plot holder then asked if there was mechanism for limiting the tenancy of plots to just residents of the Parish – there is not currently but the Committee could explore introducing such a mechanism if there was unprecedented demand for plots in the future.

23/11 – 5: To set the date for the next meeting of the Committee:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be on June 11th 2024 and coordinated to fit in with the full Council meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 6.30pm

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Chair – 23rd July 2024