

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 12th February at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillor Lloyd (Chair)
Hunt, Russell-Cairns & Stock-Williams

8 allotment tenants were also present

Debbie Bere (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Councillor James.

2. Update on plots

2 plots are vacant and in the process of re-letting

8 people on the waiting list.

Several warnings had been issued in the new year to plots that had shown signs of neglect.

Feedback from tenants and the office was that many new tenants are trying hard with lots of work being done.

3. Entrance and tracks

The office had received several complaints about the pathways on the site. This includes the entrance, the track to the carpark and the paths between plots.

There are several deep potholes that have worsened over the winter months. Site visits have been scheduled with both RW Gale and Abacus Construction.

Abacus Construction quoted £3,900 +VAT (£13 per m²) to scrape off area approximately 300m² to include front entrance by gate, track into main allotment area and parking area. Using hardcore (mixture of 40mm scalping and 20mm scalplings) to a thickness of 80mm approximately this would then be rolled.

RW Gale were also putting a quote together for the works following two site inspections.

Tenants explained that a large amount needed to be scrape off the entrance with stone placed down and rolled every 6 inches. A membrane was suggested to help prevent stone from washing away or the ground once again becoming muddy next year.

It was also mentioned that in Rockwell Green there is a sign on the entrance to the Allotment site asking tenants not to take their cars onto the grounds when it is wet.

Resolved that the quote from RW Gale be brought back to the Committee in April and other options be explored.

4. Trees

(a) Ash Trees – Car Park

Work was done over the winter to the two large trees near the car park, although due to the mild weather the bees caused some issues. An assessment of these showed that there is significant decay within the main stem and it was recommended by the TDBC tree officer that both trees heavy reduced/ pollarded to alleviate the risk of collapse.

The works had been priced at: £2785 + VAT. To reduce 2 ash with decay by approximately 50% reducing the likelihood of collapse or damage.

Tenants asked whether an apiarist could come to take the bees away before any works were undertaken.

The Committee could not make the decision on this due to cost so they made a **RECOMMENDATION** that the work be undertaken as soon as possible due to the hazard that the trees posed to the tenants.

(b) Other trees

The dead Elm trees had been felled on the site and the mature trees at the far end were also having work undertaken to ensure reduce the branches and ensure their safety.

5. Security

Locks had been taken throughout the town including the padlocks on the site entrance gate. This had now been replaced with the same code as before. Tenants are asked to check there plots for any signs of theft and report to the police using 101.

Resolved that tenants be reminded of the code.

6. Wind Damage

High winds over the winter months had caused damage to polytunnels, greenhouses and other smaller structures on plots. Tenants were reminded to make sure everything on their plot is secure and are asked where possible to regularly check and attend their plots in the winter to ensure no damage is affecting other neighbouring tenants.

Resolved new tenants been reminded to secure structures.

7. Flytipping

Household tiles, gardening equipment and even children's toys have been found to have been fly tipped recently. Tenants were asked to not dump items on the communal areas of the site.

It was advised that if tenants were to place items in communal areas in the hope someone else may require them, they remove them if still there after a week. Some tenants suggested placing a sign up when giving away bits from their own plots, explaining who they were, what plot number and how long it would be there for.

Resolved that this advice be passed onto all tenants.

8. Tyres on plots

It was raised by a tenant that one plot recently taken over by a new tenant had lots of tyres on that had been dug up after being left historically.

Resolved the office be in contact with the new tenant about removing this items.

9. Next Meeting

Debbie Bere – Deputy Town Clerk would be on maternity leave from 29th March 2018. Subject to her maternity cover being available the next committee meeting was scheduled for

Tuesday 24th April 2018 at 6pm

Meeting ended 6:35pm