

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 11th February at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair)
Councillors: G James, V Stock-Williams

9 Allotment tenants were also present

Kathryn Hemensley (Town Clerk)

1. Apologies

Councillor L Russell-Cairns

Gill Croucher (Assistant Clerk)

Apology was given for the late notification of the meeting, due to staff illness.

2. Update on Vacancies and Waiting List

The waiting list remained broadly the same. There were a several empty plots including plot 47, which had been offered several time, but declined by all to date. It was noted that this was a particularly poor plot. One plot needs some work to the ditches and hedges, and this task would be passed to the Community Warden.

Resolved To arrange necessary ditching and hedging works via the Community Warden

3. Inspection Feedback

The allotments had recently been inspected, and found to be generally satisfactory. However a very small number of plots had not been tidied up for winter. Plot numbers had been noted and letters would be sent to those tenants. This would be cross-checked to previous warning letters to establish any trend in unsatisfactory standards.

4. Hedge Trimming and General Tidy Up of the Site

Hedge trimming was completed last year outside of bird-nesting season and the site looked better as a result.

5. Entrance Gate and Tracks

Comment was made that the entrance gate, opens both ways, and can be accessed even when padlocked, due to a loose post. It was suggested to repair this defect by bracing the post with an angle iron.

The internal paths had been improved by the recent filling-in of uneven surfaces but the site generally remained damp. There were still some pot-holes on the access path and a suggestion was made to see if Somerset County Council might make available free road-planings to build up the site. This would need to be done in Summer when the materials would bind better.

Resolved To carry out further works to the gate to make it more robust.

Resolved To investigate availability of road planings for use as free aggregate

Resolved To contact Skanska to see if their 'Social Value Offer' could include assisting with pathing works.

6. Trees

Works to the Ash trees had now been completed now the bees and hornets were no longer present. Although expensive at over £1700 it was agreed the tree work had been carried out to a high standard. Elm trees overhanging plot 47 were reported as dead and a request made for these to be removed.

Resolved to check ownership of the trees arrange for their removal.

7. Site Security

Despite the gate issue, site security had not caused any concern of late. Changing the number of the combi-lock was suggested.

Resolved that the code for the combi-lock would be changed in September when the new tenancy agreements were signed.

8. Dogs

Happily it was reported that there have been no issues with dogs in recent months.

9. Items Raised by Allotment holders

A request was made to avoid cutting back flowers while bees were still active, and this was noted.

A query was raised about Allotment Association affiliation as this could result in cheaper purchasing options for seeds. The lady at Plot 6 was a liaison point for discounting with King's Seeds and her contact details are on the allotment noticeboard.

A potential allotment-holder was looking at plot 47 and had asked he would be allowed to remove the tree – apparently a non-productive cherry. It was agreed this was fine, and unlikely to be worth someone else on the site lifting it for replanting. It was commented that the agenda and notes of the last meeting had not been put up on the allotment notice board. Apologies were given.

The need to bulk the hedge with prickly plants was raised, with an offer from one plot-holder to plant a mahonia. A request was made if contact could be made with the National trust to lift some of the invasive holly on the Wellington Monument site so these could be replanted into the hedge.

Resolved to contact the Nation trust to see if this would be permissible.

10. Date of next meeting

This was set for **Monday 29th April at 6pm** in the Council Chamber.
Also to note, next site inspection would be 15th April.

The meeting ended at 6.40pm