

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 22 July 2019 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair)

Councillors: V Stock-Williams, J Hunt, M McGuffie

Kathryn Hemensley (Town Clerk), Michaela Greener (Deputy Clerk)

7 Allotment tenants were also present

1. Apologies

Councillor Barr, C Booth and D Longworthy-Smith

2. Appointment of Chairman

As this was the first meeting in the new council year, nominations were sought for the role of Chairman for the forthcoming year. Councillor Hunt nominated Councillor Lloyd. This was seconded by Councillor McGuffie and Councillor Lloyd was therefore duly elected.

3. Allotment competition results

The results for the 2019 Wellington Town Council Allotment Competition were announced.

- Best Newcomer – Michelle Beacon – Plot 12
- Best Ecological Plot – Helen and Ian Gillingham – Plots 14 & 15
- Best variety and quality of crops cultivated – Sarah Hayman – Plot 27
- Best managed plot – Amanda Ashley – Plots 53 & 54

All winners would receive one year rent free. A certificate would also be awarded to Plot 13, Chris Tubb as a highly commended newcomer plot, Plot 71 Mr and Mrs Gamlin as highly commended Best variety and management and Plot 40 Shirley Petrie as Best cultivated. The allotments had been judged by Gill Croucher, Allan Cavill and Councillor Lloyd on Thursday 4 July.

RESOLVED that results of the competition be put on the notice board at the Basins site, and the winners be invited to the September Council Meeting (Monday 2 September) to receive their awards.

4. Update on Vacancies and Waiting List

There are currently 12 people on the waiting list. There are two vacant plots (6 and 59). The person at the top of the list is looking at both vacant plots and once she has chosen, the other vacant plot will be allocated.

It was noted that some plots are overgrown. One of which may be number 93 (Wellington One). Committee was unsure whether this plot was still being used.

ACTION staff to confirm whether Wellington One wish to retain this plot and if so what action will be taken to clear it.

5. Any items tenants wish to raise

A tenant asked if the hedges could be cut. Councillor Lloyd explained that this cannot be done until the end of August due to birds nesting.

ACTION staff to ask the community warden to trim hedges

A tenant informed the committee about a scheme for free woodchips for gardens. There is a website where tenants can look up further information and find out the nearest sites where woodchips can be accessed: <https://freewoodchips.co.uk/>

A tenant raised the issue of access to water. He pointed out that some tenants, especially the elderly and infirm, are struggling to water their plots. He asked if a bore hole for water had ever been considered. Having spoken to a few other plot tenants, he thought that people might be prepared to pay extra if water could be sourced. There was a general discussion and it was noted that an extraction licence would likely be needed and that funding might be available. Councillor Lloyd pointed out that the Town Council was keen for water to be caught from roofs as part of its ecological approach.

ACTION staff to look into what might be involved in digging a bore hole for water. The tenant was asked to pass on any information he might find to staff

A tenant raised the issue of the gate. He said it can still be opened even when it has been locked. This was meant to have been looked at in February.

ACTION staff to chase this up

A tenant raised the issue of a number of plots which are overgrown. Councillor Lloyd explained that there can be private issues which affect individuals' ability to garden but the inspection process identifies these plots and action is taken to follow up when appropriate. The next inspection is due in the first two weeks of September. Tenants suggested that all tenants should be reminded of standards required as set out in the tenancy agreement.

ACTION committee to consider producing guidance on the standards required for passing inspections

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on Monday 21 October at 6pm

The meeting ended at 6.45pm