

## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Allotments Committee held on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2015 at 6pm in the Council Chamber, 28 Fore Street, Wellington.

Present: Councillors Hunt, James and Reed

6 allotment tenants

Debbie Bere – Assistant to the Town Clerk

#### 1. Election of a chair

Councillor Lloyd was re-elected as chair of the Committee. In her absence Councillor James was elected as chair for the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies

Councillors Lloyd and Stock-Williams

#### 3. Update on vacant plots

It was reported that all the plots bar one were being rented. The one that was currently vacant was being cleared in the coming days. Over the previous two months the office had aimed to re-let plots quickly especially due to the time of the year.

#### 4. Competition

It was agreed that the Allotment Competition be run as it has been in previous years with the same categories Best Newcomer, Most Ecological, Most Cultivated and Best Managed.

#### 5. Bee Keeping

An individual request had come through from new tenants asking if they could keep bees on their plot.

Councillors and tenants discussed the pros and cons of bees being kept on the site. The National Allotment Society's advice detailed that according to the 1950 Allotment Act, the keeping of bees, is subject to the landlord's permission

**Resolved** that as advice given from the National Allotment Society explained that hives are best sited away from other plot holders and paths it was not currently something that the site could offer. The Committee were therefore not happy to give permission for the keeping of bees at this time as the safety of tenants could not be guaranteed especially when bees are swarming.

#### 6. Racing Pigeons

A tenant had asked whether the Committee would consider the keeping of racing pigeons on a plot.

**Resolved** that permission for the keeping of racing pigeons be refused for the following reasons:

- The site already suffered at times with vermin – this could cause this to increase.

- This took away from the cultivation intention of the allotments.

### **7. To consider membership of the National Allotment Society**

It was explained that the National Allotment Society was sometimes used to get information from in regards to Allotment law and national schemes. Allotment plot holders were able to be members as individuals if so wished. The Council are also able to become members, however do not need to as they are covered by their own insurance. The Committee discussed the society's membership and asked for a full breakdown on what the Council would get if it was to take it on.

### **8. Skip Hire**

The Committee discussed the possibility of skip hire again on the site this year. This had been down as a one off in 2014 in order to help some plot holders remove any large items from their plots

The Committee and tenants present discussed the skip and felt that one was not required this year due to the cost and misuse last years.

**Resolved** that the office take photos of each plot before it is re-let so that they and the tenants about to let the plot have a record of what the plot was like and therefore what it must be returned to after they vacate. This would help prevent any large debris that costs to be removed from being left behind at a cost to the Council and ultimately then the tenants.

### **8. Vegetable talks**

A tenant that does 'Veg Talks' had asked to hold a summer class at their allotment plot so that people can see the veg growing. The tenant had explained that there would be two of them there in order to make sure that no one wanders off. They planned to limit the class to 10 people and not enter any plot but their own.

The Committee felt that the tenant had been very thoughtful and respectful in their approach to this.

**Resolved** that permission be given to do so and the tenant be asked to give feedback after – letting the committee know how it went.

### **9. Dates of inspections and committee meetings**

- (a) Inspections – Weeks commencing 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July
- (b) Competition – Sooner rather than later. Allan Cavill be contacted for a date
- (c) Next Committee meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> August 6pm

Meeting ended at 6:50pm