

## WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Allotments Committee Meeting held online via Zoom on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 6.00 pm

Present: Councillor J Lloyd (Chair)  
Councillors: M McGuffie, V. Stock-Williams, C. Booth, J Hunt,  
Deputy Clerk: Annette Kirk  
Town Clerk: Dave Farrow

6 members of Public

#### 1. Apologies

No apologies received.

#### 2. Update on Plot Vacancies and Waiting list

The Basins Allotments – No plots available. 23 People on Waiting list  
Longforth Farm Allotments – 30 people registered interest

#### 3. Rent

Everyone paid

#### 4. General Maintenance and Inspections

**Inspections:** Next inspection planned for the last two weeks in April 2021 – pending Government Guidance. Councillor Lloyd (chair) suggested that the teams could continue with their inspections, adhering to social distancing rules. Another option is for Councillor Lloyd and Annette Kirk Deputy Clerk to complete all the inspections. .

***ACTION: Councillor Lloyd and Deputy Clerk Annette Kirk to complete inspections if Councillors Barr is unavailable. We would wait until the next Government announcement made on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 before confirming how the plot inspections were to be completed.***

- a. **Plot 93** – A meeting had been arranged between Peter Joint, Wellington One Team and Marion Vincent to agree Works schedule. Marion Vincent reported that they had started stage 1 of works and removed breeze-blocks. They had to remove the back retaining wall, to enable them to remove the concrete base. Marion Vincent to provide a written update.  
Greenway Ground Maintenance - invoice £227.50 to erect Safety/Security Stock Fence – Wellington One Team to reimburse costs
- b. **Skips** – Two skips were hired from Wasteology Ltd in November 2020 at a cost £270.00 plus VAT each.

- c. **4 small plots 18a, 18b, 19a, 19b & footpath** – Greenway Ground Maintenance invoice £392.75 to put in path with bark chippings surface. £82.25 to clear rubbish left by previous tenants. The four new small plots are now let and tenants have begun getting the plots ready for cultivation.

**Action: AK to follow up progress on Plot 93.**

## 5. Allotment Competition:

Date – 1<sup>st</sup> Week July 2021

Categories:

- i. Best Cultivated
- ii. Best Ecological
- iii. Best Managed
- iv. Best Newcomer

Judges: Councillor Janet Lloyd & Allan Cavill (ex Regional representative of the National Society of Allotment Growers)

**Action: AK to confirm Allan Cavill's availability and to circulate notice to Tenants.**

## 6. Longforth Farm Allotments

Councillor Lloyd (chair) gave an update on negotiations with the developers Bloor Homes. Under the Section 106 Agreement – Bloor Homes to provide rainwater collection facilities. We would want Bloor Homes Developers to provide a shed and guttering for each plot. A zoom meeting with SWT's CIL & Section 106 Case Officer from SWT was held a couple of weeks ago, where concerns were raised over the quality of the soil and hardstanding area to the main gate entrance. WTC to obtain further advice and guidance. A further meeting to be arranged with a representative from Bloor Homes.

Helen Gillingham – Transition Town Wellington presented to the committee her findings with accompanying photographs following her recent inspection of the Longforth Farm Allotment land, with further advice provided by Allan Cavill.

Concerns Highlighted

- Beyond tarmac area at entrance – former hardstanding area beyond – possible car park area
- Soil light and soft under foot – worms found, sign of good quality soil.
- Clumps of reeds (hard grass) recommend this is cut regularly with tractor and mower, this will suppress the grass.
- No soil scrap evidence
- Evidence of some fly tipping. Paint pot, small pile of building rubbish
- Subsoil – clay like which is common for the Wellington area
- Broken bricks & stone – common to be found in the ground
- Tent/ homeless person living under oak tree
- Manhole cover found
- The site is sheltered with raised banks which will make it a good site for allotments

- Pond – water table further advice to be sought.

Entrance off the Taunton Road to be looked at, as there is large ditch and hedgerow which could give access to the site.

Current hedgerow not that old, Helen Gillingham recommended in future to look at hedge laying.

Annette Kirk Deputy Clerk reported a new boundary fence and entrance gate will need to be erected to enable landowner to maintain hedgerows.

## **7. Any items Tenants may wish to raise**

- Plot 49 – Samuel Berg asked had his application to erect shed been approved. Councillor Lloyd (Chair) confirmed it had.
- Helen Gillingham Transition Town Wellington expressed her gratitude to town council for circulating her notice on “How to Grow Vegetables the no dig and organic way” on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021 – it was well attended
- Plot 19b – Lindsey Stanton – reported that the padlock was missing off gate. Marion Vincent believed a tenant who keeps chickens regularly removed the padlock when shutting up his chickens.
- Plot 93 – Marion Vincent could we circulate the gate code to all tenants again
- Councillor Hunt suggest a chain is attached to the padlock and fixed to post to make it more difficult for people to remove the padlock

***Action: Annette Kirk Deputy Clerk to email all tenants with gate code and write to tenants who had no email address.***

## **8. Next meeting Date: Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 6pm**

Meeting Closed: 6.40pm