

WELLINGTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee Meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023 at 6pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington TA21 8AG.

Present: Councillors J Lloyd (Chair), M Lithgow, C Govier

In Attendance: Annette Kirk, Assets & Events Officer
Three Allotment Tenants

536. APOLOGIES

No apologies had been received.

537. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no interests to declare.

538. MINUTES

RESOLVED to confirm and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022.

539. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public participation.

540. UPDATE ON PLOT VACANCIES AND WAITING LIST

- Assets & Events Officer reported there were no plots available.
- 23 people are currently on the waiting list.

541. GENERAL MAINTENANCE & INSPECTIONS

- a) Green Corridor – Extension of current allotment site:
 - i. To observe the outcomes of Community Farm Trial before extending the current site.
 - ii. Maintenance of boundary hedges and trees – track hedges would be tidied up before the end of March. It was noted that there are a number of dead elms around the Allotment site boundary that will need removing. The Green Corridor Advisory Board will be looking at hedgerow surveys in the future.
- b) Fallen Trees on the Boundary behind Plot 84 and over Plot 100 to be removed.

542. PLOT INSPECTIONS:

Next plot inspections due early April 2023.

RESOLVED that all future Allotment Inspections will be undertaken by the Assets & Events Officer, to be accompanied by one committee member. Assets & Events Officer to arrange inspection date direct with the committee member.

543. ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

- a. Date – 1st Week July 2023. Notice to be sent to Tenants and put on site noticeboard.
- b. Categories:
 - i. Best Cultivated
 - ii. Best Ecological
 - iii. Best Managed
 - iv. Best Newcomer
- c. Judges: Allotment Chair and Allan Cavill (ex-regional representative of the National Society of Allotment Growers) – To be confirmed.

544. ALLOTMENTS SOFTWARE PACKAGE

Councillor J Lloyd (Chair) confirmed that at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting, it was approved to implement the Allotment, Park Inspection and Asset App from Cloudy IT subject to a satisfactory 30-day trial by officers.

545. ANYTHING ALLOTMENTS HOLDERS WISH TO RAISE

- Tenant at Plot 18a had made a good job of replacing the boundary fence to the rear of Plot 19a. Assets & Events Officer to inspect.
- Concern was raised over the removal of the apple tree in Plot 51. It was felt the tenants should have managed the tree. Councillor J Lloyd said that the fruit was never collected off the floor and you could not cultivate the ground under the tree. The apple tree was putting off tenants taking on the plot, as they did not want to take on the responsibility of the tree.
- There is another tree on a plot near Plot 7. Need to establish if this is a fruit tree from the tenant.
- Concerns were raised over the wooden boardwalk at The Basins. Somerset West and Taunton District Council are dealing with this.
- Concerns were raised over dead trees on the Green Corridor land beyond the Basins ponds, on the right hand side. Assets & Events Officer to bring this to the attention of The Green Corridor Advisory Board.

546. NEXT MEETING DATE: Monday 17th April 2023 at 6pm.

Venue: The United Reformed Church Hall, Fore Street, Wellington TA21 8AG

Meeting Closed: 6.25pm

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Chair, Councillor Janet Lloyd