



Allotment Sub-Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Allotment Sub-Committee meeting held at The Parish Hall, Great Baddow on **Monday 25th March 2019 at 7.30pm**

Present:

Chairman: Cllr Mrs S. Young Vice Chairman: Cllr. K. Ronaldson
Councillors: K Liley, P Sadowsky, Mrs J Sosin (Ex Officio), Mrs C Shaw (Ex Officio), Mrs D Ronaldson, A. Sosin
Officers: Elaine Bryan, Deputy Parish Clerk
Michele Dixon, Grounds Supervisor

Vicarage Lane Allotments Representative: M Harris
Towerfield Allotments Representative: T Hull

739/18 **Apologies for Absence**

Cllr T Miller
Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky
Mrs Clare Milligan – Clerk of the Council

740/18 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registerable Non Pecuniary Interests.

741/18 **Minutes**

The minutes of the last Allotment meeting held on 18th December 2018 were signed as a true record by Cllr Mrs S Young. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson.

742/18 **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

743/18 **Grounds Supervisor Update Report**

1. The work to cover the vacant allotment plots at Towerfield has now been completed, but the recent strong winds have caused some problems as the membranes are being blown around and have to be continually pinned back down.
2. Clearance work on the vacant plots at Vicarage Lane has been started by the Parish Council staff.
3. The contractor has started clearance work to the perimeter around the Vicarage Lane allotment site and has been asked to start grass cutting on the site. Clearance work has also been carried out at the back of the Lawn Cemetery/Vicarage Lane allotment site.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials "GS", is located in the bottom right corner of the page.

4. Following the advert in the Great Baddow Times there has been an increase in enquiries for vacant plots, particularly at Vicarage Lane.
5. Allotment plots 91, 92 and 93 at Vicarage Lane have been reclaimed by the Parish Council for future drainage works.
6. A request has been made for a lock to be put on the gates at the Towerfield site, following the theft of a wheelbarrow and various tools from the site. Cllr Mrs C Shaw reminded the meeting that locks had been fitted in the past and had proved to be unsuccessful due to vandalism.
7. Vacant Plots
There are no vacant plots available on the Vicarage Lane site. Towerfield has 16 vacant plots, they are numbers 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10B, 15, 17, 18, 22, 27, 29, 34, 37, 49 and 53.
8. Waiting Lists

Vicarage Lane:	5
Towerfield:	0
Total:	5
9. Bees on Allotments
The Clerk had contacted the resident regarding keeping bees on the allotments and had been advised that the applicant had not yet been able to progress the matter. The Clerk will now wait for further contact from the applicant in due course.
10. Allotment Competition Working Party
The Clerk is waiting for the horticultural society to suggest some dates for the meeting, which will consider possible changes to categories etc.

744/18

Towerfield Allotment Representative Report

The representative reported the following matters:

1. A request had been made for a lock to be placed on the gate following thefts from the site. Following some discussion, it was agreed that all allotment holders should be consulted in writing about the possible installation of a combination lock for a trial period.
2. There have been some problems with the tap on the main water butt, following advice from Essex and Suffolk Water to change it from an on/off tap to a compression style tap. The new tap requires constant pressure which can be difficult to maintain whilst filling a bucket. It was agreed to investigate the cost of an alternative tap, or a self-filling butt as used elsewhere on the site. The costs will be reported to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee if funds are not available within an existing budget.
3. A request has been received for the reinstatement of the notice board. The Grounds Supervisor reported that there are some spare noticeboards which the Community Handyman would be able to install.



4. A complaint has been received about the materials stacked on Plot 43 which are understood to be for the construction of a shed. The Grounds Supervisor will write to the tenant to ask for their removal.

The Grounds Supervisor left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

745/18

Vicarage Lane Representative Report

1. It was reported that new tenants on the site are doing well.
2. A query was raised about the removal of the faulty water tank situated on the reclaimed part of the site that is being prepared for cemetery use. Cllr Mrs S Young replied that the removal of the tank will be dependent on the requirements of the contractor that will be installing drainage and a new cemetery road.
3. It has been noticed that the plot number plates are being vandalised and broken.

746/18

Matters for Information

There were no matters for information.

747/18

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on the 25th June 2019.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 7.55 pm

Signed..........Chairman..........Date

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