

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on Tuesday 22nd October 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Key Centre, Fellowship Room.

PRESENT: Councillors D Biddleston, A Halliday and A McGuinness
B Withyman, J Lane and T Wadsworth (Keynsham Allotment Association)

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Drury – Deputy Town Clerk

19. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was noted that Councillor A McGuinness be appointed as Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2019 - 2020, as agreed at the annual meeting of the Town Council on 14 May 2019.

20. MEMBERSHIP

It was noted that Councillors D Biddleston, T Crouch, A Halliday, R King, A McGuinness, J Wallcroft and A Sinclair be appointed members of the Committee for the municipal year 2019 - 2020, as agreed at the annual meeting of the Town Council held on 14 May 2019.

21. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Terms of Reference for the Committee to include the reduced quorum/membership as agreed at the Annual Town Council Meeting in May 2019 was received and noted.

One query arose under Functions of the Committee and point (ii) *To make recommendations to the Town Council from time to time concerning the level of rent to be charged to allotment holders and concerning proposed improvement to the allotments site.* Concerns were raised that the Town Council may interfere with the rent charges after the Allotment members had been advised of any rent changes agreed at the Associations AGM. The Association was assured that this would not happen. For information, this year's rent per plot had been increased from £14 to £15.

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors T Couch, R King and J Wallcroft.

23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

24. DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

25. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none present.

26. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

The notes of the meeting held on 14th March 2019 were received and noted.

27. ABOLITION OF THE ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE

The Allotment Association members asked the question that if matters were to be considered at future Town Council meetings or at a Finance Committee meeting whether conversation would be restricted and time constrained. The Association members were assured that matters associated with the allotment business would be given sufficient time to be considered fully and that any items that were sensitive would be considered confidentially with exclusion of press and public.

In order to assist with the smooth running of items in relation to Allotment matters it was suggested that Councillors could be invited to attend the Association's meetings.

Recommendations were considered in respect of the abolition of the Allotment Committee and it was

RESOLVED: -

- (a) That the Allotments Committee is disbanded and all matters in connection with Allotments will be considered by full Town Council or Finance Committee as appropriate.
- (b) That a specific item on Allotments should be tabled every 3 months on the Agenda of Full Council (or Finance Committee) to consider any reports/submissions by the Allotments Association.
- (c) That any urgent matters would be tabled as required to either Finance & Policy Committee or Town Council

The Allotment Committee still had some concerns and Councillors assured them that if the new method of dealing with Allotment matters did not prove efficient or successful, a request could be made for the Allotment Committee to be reinstated. The Allotment Association members requested dates for 2020 meetings so that these could be recorded in their diaries. The Deputy Town Clerk will provide the Allotment Association members with these dates.

28. HALF-YEARLY REPORT – KEYNSHAM ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The half-yearly report and accounts of the Keynsham Allotment Association were received and noted. These are appended.

The Allotment Association were thanked for their report.

The Allotment Association raised concerns that it had taken three letters to the Town Clerk before getting a response in respect of the S.106 monies allocated for Keynsham Allotments. The first two letters had not even received an acknowledgment.

Councillors informed the Allotment Association that the Town Council had declared a Climate Change Emergency and that they were pleased that the Allotment Association were already taking green issues seriously. Especially with the installation of a composting toilet and their composting rules. The Allotment Association were urged to encourage people to compost on site and reduce the number of car trips to the local tip to dispose of waste.

The Deputy Town Clerk was asked to contact the Landlord of the Allotment Site to make enquiries regarding a possible project for extending the water provision to existing areas of the site that are currently not serviced and as to whether he would be agreeable.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That future meetings would be held as either part of the Finance Committee or Town Council and the dates of the future meetings will be notified in due course.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

SIGNED..... (Chairman) DATE.....