

## **Report of the Allotment Sub Committee to the Parish Council**

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr Mrs S Young chaired the meeting.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Young, Mrs D Ronaldson, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs V Sadowsky, Mrs J Sosin, K Ronaldson, A Sosin, K Liley and T Miller.

In Attendance:           The Clerk of the Council  
                                  The Administrative Assistant  
                                  Towerfield Allotment Site Representative Mr T Hull  
                                  Vicarage Lane Allotment Site Representative Mr M Harris  
                                  2 members of the public from 7.35pm

### **546/15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Fuller.

### **547/15 Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests.

### **548/15 Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were presented and proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin.

### **549/15 Public Question Time**

Cllr Mrs S Young read out a statement with regard to the recording and filming of council meetings.

There were 2 members of the public present who had come to make a request to keep bees on the Vicarage Lane allotment site.

### **550/15 Bees**

With the consent of the meeting, item 8 from the agenda was brought forward and discussed whilst the members of the public were still present. Following much discussion, it was agreed that further information about bee keeping should be obtained and a consultation carried out with the Vicarage Lane allotment tenants prior to any decision being made. Cllr A Sosin proposed that the consultation be prepared in time for discussion at the next meeting in March 2016 and this was seconded by Cllr K Liley. It was also agreed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk should be authorised to take the action required for this to be carried out.

### **551/15 To receive an update report on matters raised by the Allotment Representatives on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

A report prepared by the Administrative Assistant had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following items were noted:

- Currently there are five vacant plots on the Vicarage Lane site, with one person waiting for a half plot.
- There are seven vacant plots on the Towerfield site and no waiting list.

### **Update on issues raised by the Towerfield Allotment Representative on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

1. Further to Mr Hull's concerns about allotment numbers 10, 11 and 37, a letter was sent to the tenant of plot 10 requesting more cultivation. Plot 11 is currently vacant and plot 37 is being monitored.

2. Following concerns about the number of vacant plots and a request by the Chairman to know the percentage of tenanted allotments.  
Please be advised that the Towerfield site is currently 87% tenanted and Vicarage Lane 94% tenanted. This is being monitored by the Clerk.
3. Unfortunately, due to staff sickness, maintenance on both allotment sites is currently suspended.
4. In accordance with Mr Hull's request for the boundary of plot 33 to be checked, I can confirm that the site was inspected by the Grounds Manager and the boundary realigned accordingly.

**Update on issues raised on the Vicarage Lane site on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

Following Mr Harris's concerns about security at the Vicarage Lane site, a reminder was sent to all tenants requesting that they close the gate after entering and leaving the site. Notices have also been placed on the gate.

**552/15 Report of the Towerfield Allotment Representative**

1. Mr Hull gave thanks for the recent skip on the Towerfield site and reported that it had proved to be a success.
2. Mr Hull advised that the door on the Towerfield notice board is broken and requested that it be looked at. If it is not repairable, the Clerk will look at budget availability.
3. Mr Hull raised concerns about who had weed killed plot 24, as it appears to have been over sprayed and now looked completely desolate.
4. Mr Hull reported that plot 11 was looking very overgrown and requested that a member of the Grounds staff attend to it.

**553/15 Vicarage Lane Allotment Site**

1. Mr Harris advised that everything seemed fine at the Vicarage Lane site, although he had noticed that some tenants continued to be resistant about closing the gate.
2. Mr Harris reported that there had recently been a number of fly tipping incidents in the car park at Vicarage Lane. The Clerk requested that Mr Harris report any future instances of fly tipping to the office as soon as possible.

Following an inspection carried out by the Administrative Assistant on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the Grounds staff have been instructed to remove all debris currently dumped in the car park area.

**554/15 Matters for information**

Cllr Mrs J Sosin reminded those present that the Allotment Prize Giving evening will be taking place in the Parish Hall on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm.

**555/15 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.10 pm

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