

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

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2018**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr Mrs S Young chaired the meeting.

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

In Attendance: Cllr Mrs M Miller  
Two members of the public  
The Clerk of the Council  
The Grounds Supervisor  
Towerfield Allotment Site Representative Mr T Hull  
Vicarage Lane Allotment Site Representative Mr M Harris

The Chairman welcomed two members of the public and read out a statement with regard to the recording and filming of Council meetings.

### **741/17 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence as all members of the committee were present.

### **742/17 Declarations of Interests**

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

### **743/17 Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December were presented to the meeting and proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson. They were agreed unanimously and then signed as a true record.

### **744/17 Public Question Time**

There were two members of the public present, one of whom had come to speak to the committee about the bee policy. The committee was told that there had been e.mail correspondence with the office about establishing bee hives on the Vicarage Lane Allotment site. The Clerk told the meeting that she had been in contact with the Essex Beekeeping Association, as instructed, to clarify some points before the policy was formally adopted. Despite contacting the Association four times during 2017, the advice required had not been forthcoming. The member of the public said that it may be possible to obtain the information required from the Chelmsford Beekeeping Association and that she could facilitate this. This was agreed.

### **745/17 To receive an update report on matters raised by the Allotment Representatives on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

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

Since the last allotment meeting in December 2018, Elm Horticulture Ltd has been appointed to take over the maintenance of the allotment site at Vicarage Lane and the Lawn Cemetery.



### **1. Vacant Plots**

There are currently a large number of vacant plots on both the Vicarage Lane site and the Towerfield site. Concern was expressed about the high number and there followed discussion about splitting one plot into half on the Towerfield site. The Clerk advised, as she had in the past that making half plots will increase the administrative work involved in the allotments.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin that one plot should be split into half on the Towerfield site. The vote was unanimous. It was agreed that further advertising should take place about the vacant allotments and a poster in Martins should be tried, as well as the usual noticeboards and website.

### **2. Waiting Lists**

Vicarage Lane:	0
Towerfield:	0
<b>Total:</b>	<b>0</b>

### **3. Update on issues raised by the Towerfield Allotment Representative on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

Further to Mr Hull's report, there are no items to be updated with the exception of the damaged Chairman's Cup which is being dealt with by the Parish Council office.

### **4. Update on the issues raised by the Vicarage Lane Allotment Representative on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

There are no items to be updated.

#### **746/17 Report of the Towerfield Allotment Representative**

1. Mr Hull reported that there has not been much activity on the site since the last meeting in December 2017 but that things should be starting soon.
2. Mr Hull reported that the vacant plots need some attention. The Grounds Supervisor reported that the Council's staff have done work on the site in the last two weeks.
3. Mr Hull reported that there had been a lot of tree debris on the allotment site, which was the result of wind damage.

#### **747/17 Report of the Vicarage Lane Allotment Representative**

1. Mr Harris also reported that there had not been a lot of activity on the site since the last meeting.
2. Mr Harris reported that the hedge line along the southern border of the site has been taken out by the farmer. This will be investigated but the Clerk said that there was probably little that could be done because the hedge is on the farmer's land.
3. Mr Harris reported that spoil from the cemetery has been dumped on the land that is to be re-claimed without proper procedures being followed. The Clerk said that problems had been experienced in the cemetery because there was nowhere left to put the spoil. It had been agreed to use some of the spoil to level off the dips and holes in the reclaimed land. Advice will be taken from the Council's contractor about this practice.

**748/17 Allotment Competition**

Following discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs Mrs S Young and Mrs J Sosin will be the Council's judges for the Best Kept Allotment Competition 2018.

The Clerk will contact the Horticultural Society and ask them to provide two judges as well.

**749/17 Matters for information**

- Cllr Mrs C Shaw asked about the potholes at the entrance to the allotment site and the Clerk said that these will be investigated.
- Mr T Hull asked about the Chairman's cup and what was happening about the repair. The Clerk said that the cup is in the office and that she had not been informed what has happened to date. The matter will be chased.

**750/17 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will take place on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.00pm

Signed.....*J E Sosin*.....Chairman.....*9th April 2018*.....Date