

Report of the Allotment Sub Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 29th June 2015**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr Mrs S Young chaired the meeting.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Young, Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, A Sosin, T Miller, K Liley and Mrs V Sadowsky from 7.34pm.

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council
 The Administrative Assistant
 The Grounds Manager
 The Deputy Grounds Manager
 Towerfield Allotment Site Representative Mr T Hull
 Mr M Harris

172/15 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs D Ronaldson, K Ronaldson and J Fuller.

173/15 Declarations of Interests

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

174/15 Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on 30th March 2015 were presented and proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young, seconded by Cllr A Sosin and signed as a true record.

Cllr Mrs V Sadowsky entered the meeting at 7.34pm.

175/15 Public Question Time

Mr Michael Harris had come to put himself forward as the Vicarage Lane allotment representative. There were no other members of the public present.

176/15 To receive an update report on matters raised by the Allotment Representatives on 30th March 2015

A report prepared by the Administrative Assistant had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Administrative Assistant advised that due to a number of plots having been available on the Vicarage Lane site for some time, it was agreed with the Clerk to offer tenants in the cemetery reclaim area, the opportunity to move early. Two tenants expressed an interest, one of whom will be moving in September.

There continues to be a problem with theft on both allotment sites. The Grounds Manager has been notified and asked to keep a watchful eye on both sites. Tenants are advised to report the thefts to the police.

Following recent inspections, the Administrative Assistant advised that two eviction notices had been issued and a number of letters sent to tenants who are not cultivating their allotments.

The following items were noted:

- There are 2 vacant plots on the Vicarage Lane site and 4 at the Towerfield site.
- Currently neither site has a waiting list.

Update on issues raised by the Towerfield Allotment Representative on 30th March 2015

There were no items to be updated, as Mr Hull had apologised prior to the meeting.

Update on issues raised on the Vicarage Lane site on 30th March 2015

There were no items to be updated.

177/15 Vicarage Lane Allotment Site Representative

Cllr Mrs S Young welcomed Mr Michael Harris to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Liley that Mr Michael Harris be formally appointed as the Representative for the Vicarage Lane Allotment Site.

178/15 Report of the Towerfield Allotment Representative

Mr Hull advised the meeting that the dry weather is causing problems with the growth of produce, he requested that consideration be given to any tenants who may be experiencing difficulties at this time.

Mr Hull raised concerns about the condition of plot 43. The Administrative Assistant responded by advising those present that the plot had recently been returned to the Council.

Mr Hull expressed concern about the number of foxes entering the allotment site and asked whether any action could be taken to remove them. The Clerk advised that not much can be done, however up to date advice will be sought from the City Council Environmental Health Officer.

179/15 Vicarage Lane Allotment Site

Mr Harris confirmed that theft continues to be a problem at the Vicarage Lane and requested contact details for the local PCSO.

Cllr Mrs S Young requested that an item about theft be included in the next allotment newsletter. It was also agreed to report the thefts to the next NAP meeting.

Mr Harris asked whether it would be possible to install solar powered cameras at the allotment site. The Clerk advised that this would not be possible for the Council to do formally, however she saw no reason why individuals could not trial it independently, providing the camera was strictly focussed on the allotment holder's plot only.

180/15 Allotment Competition Judging

Following some discussion, it was agreed that Cllrs A Sosin and T Miller would accompany the Horticultural Society to judge the Best Kept Allotment Competition, on Friday 10th July 2015 at 10.00 am. The Clerk advised that she would confirm the date to the councillors by email.

181/15 Matters for information

There were no matters for information.

182/15 Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 5th October 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.57 pm

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