

Report of the Allotment Sub Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 7.30 pm on **Monday 25th September 2017**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr Mrs S Young chaired the meeting.

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

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council
 The Grounds Supervisor
 Towerfield Allotment Site Representative Mr T Hull
 Vicarage Lane Allotment Site Representative Mr M Harris

343/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson, who had substituted Cllr Mrs M Miller and Cllr J Fuller.

344/17 Declarations of Interests

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

345/17 Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on 26th June 2017 were presented to the meeting and proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw. They were agreed unanimously and then signed as a true record.

346/17 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

347/17 To receive an update report on matters raised by the Allotment Representatives on 26th June 2017

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

Since the last meeting, the Vicarage Lane allotment site has seen the introduction of a new contractor, Country Grounds Maintenance Ltd otherwise known as CGM. Work on the allotments has been slow to get started but CGM have recently cut down the reclaimed section and carried out work to the car park area next to the horticultural containers and some of the communal paths. Work on vacated plots has yet to start.

The allotment numbering on both sites has long been a problem and has made identifying individual plots extremely difficult. Both the Clerk and the Grounds Supervisor have put together several options that will be presented to the meeting at a later item.

The work to replace the water tanks at Vicarage Lane has been agreed and will be carried out shortly by a local contractor.

There are currently 8 vacant plots on the Vicarage Lane site and 9 on the Towerfield site. There is currently no allotment waiting list. There are also two tenants on each site who the Grounds Supervisor believes should have their tenancies terminated due to non-cultivation. The details of all four tenants have been forwarded to the Clerk.

4. Mr Harris told the meeting that the problem with the water supply seems to have stopped. He believes that it was caused by a tenant trying to connect a hose-pipe to the outlet.
5. Mr Harris reported that some cemetery users are parking inconsiderately in the car park. The Clerk said that now the cemetery is expanding, both user groups will have to share the space and suggested that the Council should consider some parking management in the area.

350/17 Allotment Deposits

Mr Hull reported that he has spoken to several tenants on the Towerfield site. The idea of a deposit scheme is not popular and he considered that there could be problems with introducing such a scheme. There was general discussion about the amount of non-compostable rubbish that the Council has had to clear from the two sites in the last year, which has cost nearly £1400.00 so far. Mr Harris said that before any scheme was introduced, the Council should be clear about what it wants to happen. It was agreed that further information should be sought from the City Council and other Parish Councils about whether deposits are charged and a report should be presented to the next appropriate meeting.

351/17 Allotment Numbering

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Grounds Supervisor had prepared an example of some metal numbers on a Perspex background. There was quite a lot of discussion about the matter and it was agreed that it is becoming urgent that the numbers are replaced. Mr Harris said that he would be able to produce a further example and quote.

It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs S Young that this additional example should be considered by the Clerk and the Grounds Supervisor and then the replacement numbering can go ahead, as long as the budget spend is below £500.00.

352/17 Budget

1. Review of Budget Spending for 2017/18

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted. There are no concerns about the spending to date, except for the Skip Hire budget, which is very high due to the overload charge for the rubbish that has been removed. However, the Council has been fully informed about this and is aware of the overspend.

2. To consider the first draft budget for 2018/2019

A draft budget had been circulated prior to the meeting. The following comments were made.

- The Clerk advised that the budget for item 4140 – Skip Hire has been increased to take account of the recent spending and the future requirement for skips.
- Budget 4143 – Allotment Numbers has been included to allow for expenditure on new plot marker numbers for the two sites.
- The income budgets 4177 and 4178 have been increased to take account of the annual rise.

It was agreed that the budget should be recommended to the Finance and General Purposes Committee in November 2017, with the proviso that the

Allotment Numbers budget may not be necessary. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin. This was agreed unanimously.

353/17 Matters for information

There were no matters for information.

354/17 Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on Monday 18th December 2017 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8.08 pm

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