

BARROWBY PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Barrowby Allotment Committee Meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024 at the Reading Room, Barrowby

PUBLIC FORUM (7.15pm): There were no members of the public present.

Following a proposal by Mark Cherry, seconded by Mr Pcola, members resolved to suspend Standing Orders and open the meeting ahead of the scheduled time.

MEETING OPENED: 7.23pm

1. WELCOME REMARKS (23/023)

- 1.1 The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. Those in attendance were Mr Cherry, Mr King, Mrs King, Mr Lightfoot, Councillor Marriott and Mr Pcola. It was noted that Mrs Sylvia Markham has resigned her position on both the Barrowby Gardener's Association and this Committee.

2. CO-OPTION OF NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER (23/024)

- 2.1 It was resolved to approve the Co-option of Mr Ian Chambers on to the Committee who then signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & REASONS GIVEN (23/025)

- 3.1 Apologies were received and accepted from Mr Chapman and Mrs McConnell-Good.

4. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCALISM ACT 2011 (23/026)

- 4.1 None received.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (23/027)

- 5.1 With one slight amendment it was **RESOLVED** to approve the Clerk's minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held on 23rd October. Mr Chambers abstained.

6. SITE REPORT (23/028)

- 6.1 Mr King provided a site report:
- the speed bumps will be finished when the weather improves.
 - the slab path to the toilet needs finishing in the Spring.
 - following a boundary inspection there are some small repairs to be made.
 - several non-fruit trees at the site have now been removed by plot holders.
 - Wildflower seeds will be planted in Spring.
 - more stone is needed to fill the potholes.
- 6.2 The Clerk reported that she is having trouble finding a contractor to clear the ditch but will keep trying to find one.
- 6.3 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of new posts for the noticeboard.
- 6.4 It was **RESOLVED** to approve the purchase of at least 2 more solar powered lights and some posts.
- 6.5 The issue of the lowering of hedging on a boundary has now been resolved.

7. FINANCES (23/029)

- 7.1 Members noted the 2023/24 allocated budget and actual expenditure to date and reviewed the forecast spend up to the 31st March and **RESOLVED** to approve the removal of the forecast for skip hire of £250 and to reduce the maintenance forecast to £750.

Action: Clerk to amend the forecast as agreed.

8. ALLOTMENT ALLOCATIONS, PLOT REPORT AND WAITING LIST (23/030)

- 8.1 Members resolved to move into closed session in accordance with the Public Bodies Act 1960, due to the confidential nature of matters to be discussed regarding plot allocations, plot report and waiting list.
- 8.2 Members noted the latest allotment allocations and waiting list numbers.
- 8.3 Members received a plot report. A flower arrangement and a card were sent to Mrs Sylvia Markham. An Asset Register for keys and equipment owned by the Parish Council will be produced.
Action: An Asset Register of keys and equipment owned by the Parish Council will be produced and sent to the Clerk.
- 8.4 Members discussed the renewal of tenancies from 1st April and it was agreed that all tenancies will be renewed.
- 8.5 The Chairman thanked everybody for their part in conducting plot inspections which have been consistent and fair and taken individual's circumstances into account where these have been reported. It was formally noted the Committee members disappointment that an ex-plot holder has approached the Grantham Journal following her dispute with the Allotment Committee and that an article was published in which the ex-plot holder made several accusations against the Allotment Committee. It should also be noted that the Committee followed the rules set out in the Tenancy Agreement which all plot holders sign to acknowledge their acceptance and that the complaints procedure was followed at all times.
- 8.6 The meeting came out of closed session.

9. REVIEW OF TENANCY AGREEMENT (23/031)

- 9.1 It was **RESOLVED** to approve an amendment to the rule on re-admission to the site following an eviction and to accept the proposed minor amendments to the Tenancy Agreement as previously circulated.
- 9.2 It was **RESOLVED** to approve that the rule on plot inspections remains the same and that only Committee members can conduct plot inspections.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (23/032)

- 12.1 Monday 15th April 2024 at 7.15pm at the Reading Room.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm.