

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE, HELD ON THURSDAY 17TH JANUARY 2013, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KING'S HOUSE, THETFORD, STARTING AT 10.00 A.M.

Present:
Councillors:
The Mayor Councillor T J Lamb
M G Spencer (Chair)
Mrs S J Armes
D Crawford

*Note: The serving Town Mayor is an ex officio member of all Town Council Committees.

In attendance:
R Carter Allotment Officer
R Stebbings Works Foreman
C Crimmen Committee Secretary

R Ambridge, E Browne, T Gayle, P Mosby, A Beard, Y Rout, B Farrell, M Lister and T Lister – Representatives of the Thetford Garden & Allotment Club, Mundford Road Allotments Association and other allotment holders

Minutes

- 558/12 (b) DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS
None
- 559/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
None
- 560/12 MINUTES
Resolved that the minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 19th September 2012, as received by the Council on 29th September 2012 under minute 338/12 (f) to be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Committee Chairman.
- 561/12 SPARE LAND AT MUNDFORD ROAD ALLOTMENTS ADJACENT TO PILLBOX
Mr R Ambridge from the Mundford Road Allotments Association stated the allotment holders were prepared to clear the spare land adjacent to the pillbox at no cost to the Council so that it can be reclaimed as additional allotments and for bee keeping.
Councillor M Spencer proposed and The Mayor Councillor T Lamb seconded that the derelict land at the Mundford Road allotments adjacent to the pill box be reclaimed as additional allotments and to be used for bee keeping. The proposal was carried unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION: That the derelict land at the Mundford Road allotments adjacent to the pill box be reclaimed as additional allotments and to be used for bee keeping.

562/12 PERMISSION FOR GATE FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY TO PLOT BR01

Following a discussion the request was refused and it was agreed that the Council send a letter informing the allotment holder of the Committees decision.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Acting Town Clerk write a letter refusing permission for a gate to be put in the allotment fence.

563/12 ADMINISTRATION OF NEW AGREEMENTS FOR 2013/2014

The Allotment Officer put forward improvements to the administration of the allotments.

- To reduce paperwork, agreements will no longer be issued to current allotment holders annually. A copy of the terms and conditions will be displayed on notice boards at the allotments as well as on the Council website. New allotment holders will still be issued with an agreement.
- By making payment of the annual fee, current allotment holders will accept the tenancy terms and conditions.
- Where possible email should be used.
- Allotment holders will be encouraged to pay by internet banking.

It was agreed by the Committee that allotment holders would welcome the reduction in paperwork.

RECOMMENDATION: To agree to the new administration of the allotments agreements.

564/12 REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS

After a discussion the Committee decided that inspections should remain as planned for the year 2012/13, but be reduced to two per year from 2013/2014. The first inspection will be just after Easter and the second at the beginning of October.

565/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 17th April 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

Chairman