

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE,
HELD IN THE CARNEGIE, CAGE LANE, THURSDAY 17th JUNE 2021, STARTING
AT 10.00 AM.

Present:
The Mayor Councillor M P Brindle

Councillors:
B J Canham, D M Crawford, C Harvey, D Hodgkinson, J Hollis, B Tullett

Officers in attendance:
Alan Yorke Deputy Town Clerk, Carl Higgins Allotment Officer
Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

MINUTES

76/21	<u>ELECTION OF CHAIR</u> RESOLVED: That Councillor J Hollis be elected Chair of the Amenities Committee for the Mayoral year 2021/22.
77/21	<u>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN</u> RESOLVED: That Councillor D Crawford be elected Vice Chair of the Allotment Committee for the Mayoral Year 2021/22.
78/21	<u>DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u> None received.
79/21	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None received.
80/21	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the committee meeting held on 15th April 2021 which were received by Full Council on 27th April 2021, as a true record and be signed/initialled by the Chairman.
81/21	<u>ALLOTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT</u> The Allotment Office asked Councillors to receive a report and to consider any recommendations therein: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change in role as Allotment Officer also now doing weekly playpark inspections • First and Second plot inspections carried out at Mundford Road and Bury Road • Beekeeping signage affixed to relevant site gates • Fencing at Bury Road Allotment Site has been put on hold until end of nesting season. • Proposed anti-climb brackets, pack of 10 - £50.00, 4 brackets per double gated entrance. • Proposed beekeeping area on Bury Road Allotment Site (plot BU21) and noted a weekly inspection is required. <p>After a discussion regarding the Allotment Officers split duties, it was agreed that the Allotment Committee to explore the cost of using an outside contractor to work on clearing the empty allotment plots so they can be let.</p> <p>The Allotment Officer informed the committee he will use anti climbing brackets and wire at a cost of £100 on the three gates at Bury Road. From the Allotment maintenance budget.</p>
82/21	<u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u> It was agreed to put up signage showing who should be contacted in the event of a swarm of bees on the Munford sign site.
83/21	<u>ALLOCATION AND WAITING LISTS</u> The Allotment Officer reported:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of applicants on waiting list - 63 • Number of waiting list applicates contacted since the easing of lockdown - 31 • Number of applicates that have taken up the offer of an allotment - 15 • Number of applicates that have been offered a plot but haven't finalised - 5 • Recently relinquished plots - 4. • Plots that have stood vacant for a while - BR01, BR06A, BR08, MR03, MR37B, MR40, MR42, LO08, LO25A, LO31, BU16A, BU28B. <p>The report was noted by Councillors.</p>
84/21	<p><u>ENGAGING WITH ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES</u></p> <p>It was agreed to engage informally with allotment representatives and to arrange this meeting prior to the next Allotment Committee meeting so a report can be given to the Committee.</p>
85/20	<p><u>REVISED ALLOTMENT RULES</u></p> <p>Further to the above item it was agreed that at the informal meeting the process of revising and consolidating allotment rules will be discussed.</p>
86/20	<p><u>SPONSORSHIP OF ALLOTMENT JUDGING</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk asked councillors to consider whether to sponsor the judging of the allotment competition and to decide on a sponsorship amount. After a discussion Councillor D Crawford proposed and Councillor C Harvey seconded:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That Thetford Town Council allocate a sum of £100 to invite a professional judge to attend the annual Thetford Garden Show,</p>
87/20	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>None.</p>
88/20	<p><u>COMMITTEE OFFICERS UPDATE</u></p> <p>To update any information since the agenda was released. Decision Required: None Lead: Allotments Officer</p>
89/20	<p><u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u></p> <p>None.</p>
90/20	<p><u>EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC</u></p> <p>To consider resolving that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for any remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.</p>
91/20	<p><u>TO CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL TENANT ISSUES</u></p> <p>A non-allotment holder has requested permission to be a “buddy” to his two daughters and a third party on London Road. He has now posted signed applications from 7 further London Road allotment holders This request was not approved by Councillors.</p> <p>Mundford Road has a beekeeping area that was given to the Mundford Road Allotments Club that is not being maintained. This area should be checked once a week and it was agreed that the Allotment Officer would speak to the Club Secretary and report back to the Committee.</p>

Chairman.