

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE,
HELD ONLINE THURSDAY 15th APRIL 2021, STARTING AT 11.30 AM.

Present:

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

Officers in attendance:

Alan Yorke Deputy Town Clerk, Carl Higgins Allotment Officer
Chris Crimmen Committee Secretary

MINUTES

966/20	<u>DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u> None.
967/20	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> None.
968/20	<u>MINUTES</u> RESOLVED: The minutes of the Committee's meetings held on 14th January 2021, received by Council on 26th January 2021, as a true record and signed/initialled by the Committee Chairman.
969/20	<u>ALLOTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT</u> The Allotment Officer reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suffolk Pest Control have reported positive results in reducing and controlling vermin activity on Mundford Road, Bury Road and London Road allotment sites. • Allotment Inspections and Allocations have resumed starting from 12th April. • Vacant plots that have been cleared are now being divided into half plots to help meet demand. • Site Maintenance carried out on various sites has included upgrading a number of standpipes with individual isolation valves. Anglian Water have carried out its five-year inspection and has passed all our allotment sites regarding standpipe regulations. • Mundford Road beekeeping area has had the majority of its old fencing replaced. • ID Verde have made a promising start to the grass-cutting season, a vast improvement to last season. • There have been a number of reports concerning the killing of livestock on the Mundford Road site, it is believed to be caused by foxes, He had spoken and advised concerned tenants of the need to upgrade their livestock enclosures. • He produced an example of proposed main gates signage concerning beekeeping awareness which was approved by the committee.
970/20	<u>PRELIMINARY FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021</u> The Deputy Town Clerk reviewed the financial report and reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income budgeted was £8,698 and the council received £8,516 • Expenditure budgeted was £7,106 and spent £7,106. • The provisional figures show £340 worse off against budget. There were no questions.
971/20	<u>HEALTH & SAFETY</u> Councillor C Harvey the Committee H&S Officer reported due to Covid he has not been able to visit the allotments.

972/20	<p><u>ALLOCATION AND WAITING LISTS</u></p> <p>The Allotment Officer reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 72 on the waiting list which included 3 non-residents. • Between October 2020 and February 2021 13 plots were allocated. • Current occupancy was 91.09% - 225 out of 247 plots. Councillors were very pleased with the high occupancy rates. • 20 plots are ready to be allocated and 14 of these have been offered.
973/20	<p><u>LEASE/PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR ALLOTMENTS</u></p> <p>Councillor were asked to consider and make a decision on whether there is a need to lease or purchase additional land for allotments.</p> <p>There followed a discussion when councillors made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current allotments need to be self sufficient. • Must take care of the allotments the council already have. • There are always a turnover of allotments. • There are funds set aside. <p>After a discussion Councillor J Hollis proposed and Councillor C Harvey seconded:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the Allotments committee defer this decision until the next meeting. The members will meet to discuss a way forward and produce a report and reconsider this matter.</p> <p>At this point Councillor B Canham left the meeting.</p>
974/20	<p><u>REVISED ALLOTMENT RULES</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported that there had been a very successful workshop when it was agreed that there is a need to consolidate all the rules into one document. There is a need to do further consultations on some proposed changes (vehicular access, bonfires, deposits etc) with associations and representatives. It was agreed to hold another meeting which would be virtual to allow input for the various allotment clubs so they can contribute and revised rules to be tabled at next meeting after further consultation.</p>
975/20	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>There was a letter regarding foxes at the Mundford Road allotments. This matter was dealt with by the Allotment Officer.</p>
976/20	<p><u>COMMITTEE OFFICERS' UPDATE</u></p> <p>None.</p>
977/20	<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>
978/20	<p><u>LEASE OF ADDITIONAL LAND FOR ALLOTMENTS</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk asked councillors to discuss the offer of leasing additional land for an allotments by a landowner measuring a third of an acre. There followed a discussion when it was decided to view the plot of land as soon as possible. The Deputy Town Clerk will arrange access as soon as possible.</p>
979/20	<p><u>TO CONSIDER INDIVIDUAL TENANT ISSUES</u></p> <p>The Chair reported the following issues raised by individual tenants or associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fencing on the Bury road allotments. The Allotments Officer will try to mend this will materials to hand. • Live stock deaths on Mundford Road. • Non tenants entering greenhouses on Bury Road allotments. • Bonfire issues at the Bury Road allotments. • Fence damaged on the London Road allotments.

Chairman.