



CHILTON TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Chilton Town Council Allotment Committee
held at Hutton House, Chilton, County Durham, on
Monday 20th February 2023

Chairman: *Councillor P. Davies*

Present: *Cllrs. E. Bruce, P. Malpas, A. Bruce, J. Houlihan.*

In attendance: J. Robinson Town Clerk.

Members of the public: *12 members of the public*

ALL116.0/22. APOLOGIES

Cllr. K. Hornsby, J. Cairns, S. Sutherland, M. Young.

ALL117.0/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

ALL118.0/22. MEMBER DISPENSATION

None.

ALL119.0/22 CHAIRMANS REPORT

None

ALL120.0/22 TENANT PARTICIPATION

Tenants raised the following issues: -

- a, Fly Tipping on WCT1 site continues, it also needs a lot of weed killing
- b. Tampering of site locks, been reported to the police
- c. Please provide CCTV.
- d. ?when is WCT1 to have its fencing replaced
- e. Perimeter fencing WCT1 still needs to be done.
- f. Garage site near Hambleton Way/Prospect. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with LIVIN to discuss.

ALL 121.0/22 REPORT ON CURRENT ALLOTMENT ISSUES

- a. No allotments have been issued over the period. Members expressed concern in the delay and it was proposed Cllr. E. Bruce seconded Cllr. P. Malpas that the Town Clerk allocate as many vacant sites to those on the waiting list asap, a report be circulated to members on allocation/remaining vacancies and for Allocation Policy Review be added to the March Allotment agenda. This was carried. Members noted the report stated 15 available plots.
- b. It was proposed Cllr. E. Bruce seconded Cllr. P. Malpas Town Clerk clear all outstanding repair issues and a report be presented to the March Allotment Committee
- c. 14 people are currently on the waiting list, 5 wanting specific plots, 2 wanting HW or PT, 6 new requests and 1 offered and awaiting a reply.
- d. Town Clerk to present at the March Committee meeting a report on the costings of proposed fencing programme for both Hambleton Way and WCT1.
- e. It was agreed to arrange site visit for all members to both WCT1 and WCT2
- f. members raised issues in regard to plots 131 and 61 and asked if the Chairman would arrange to inspect and report back

ALL122.0/22 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Town Clerk advised Cllr. S. Sutherland who had requested this item be placed on the agenda be adjourned to the March meeting. He had however asked that the meeting assure tenants present there are no plans to sell off any site, to dispel rumours.

ALL123.0/22 ALLOTMENT INSPECTION OFFICER

The Town Clerk reported on a proposal to employ jointly with Bishop Auckland Town Council an independent inspection officer, working 2/3 days per month. It was agreed a joint meeting be arranged with Bishop Auckland, and costing/job role be prepared for March meeting. It was also suggested Spennymoor Town Council be approached who have their own officer doing a similar role.

ALL124.0/22 SKIPS

It was agreed to hire 4 skips 1 for PT/WCT1/WCT2/HW and an asbestos skip in April. It was agreed 4 members attend the site to supervise. This was carried 4 for, 1 abstention.

ALL 125.0/22 COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Members agreed to allocate plots 101/102 for the men's group as a Community Allotment and to be free for 2023/24

ALL126.0/22 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. P. Davies proposed, seconded by Cllr. J. Houlihan and carried that due to the nature of the business to be transacted that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting.

Cllr. J. Houlihan left the meeting at this point.

ALL127.0/22 INSURANCE SCHEME

It was agreed Chair/Vice Chair and Town Clerk investigate NAS insurance scheme and report back to March meeting.

ALL128.0/22 SITEING OF CONTAINER

It was agreed to place this item on the March Full Council agenda.

ALL 129.0/22 ALLOTMENT MEMBER/VOLUNTEER ROLE

The Town Council reported to members a proposal for a joint member/tenant volunteer to work together on allocated sites, to visit the site monthly and report back to allotment committee meetings. Members felt this was an excellent idea and further work be undertaken to take forward. Members volunteered for:

1. Hambleton Way Cllr. E. Bruce
2. Prospect terrace Cllr. P. Davies
3. WCT 1 Cllr. P. Malpas
4. WCT2

Matter to be added to March agenda.

ALL130.0/22 TENANT ISSUES

It was reported 1 tenant allocated his allotment in September 2022 had still to pay fee. Agreed to proceed to Notice to Quit stage of policy.

ALL132.0/22 FUTURE MEETINGS

Members discussed the format of future meetings to enable them to be more fruitful. Town Clerk suggested a meeting for/with tenants at 9.30am same day, and full committee at 10.30am, with a report being presented of tenancy issues. Members agreed to trial this from March meeting.

ALL133.0/22 NEXT MEETING

To be Monday 20th March 2023 in Hutton House 10.30am
Tenant meeting 9.30am prior to full Committee.

Signed: -
Mayor of Chilton
14th March 2023

