

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENTS ADVISORY SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 15 JUNE 2017 AT 9:30AM**

Present:	Councillor Mrs Sharon Cullen	-	Chairman
	Councillor Mrs Pam Jones	-	
	Mrs Alexandra Bond	-	Grounds Administrator
	Mrs Samantha Brown	-	Allotments Officer
	Mr Ty Smith	-	Grounds Manager
	Mr John Pritchard	-	Alton Allotment Association
	Mr Steve Herbert	-	Site Rep - Spitalfields
	Mrs Marion Morgans	-	Site Rep - Hawthorns
	Mrs Yvonne Thorne	-	Site Rep - Wooteys

In attendance: Miss Chiara Coombes

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Pat Harding.

2 **Minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11 January 2017 were accepted.

3 **Bees on Sites**

Mr Herbert had been approached by a plot holder asking if a beehive could be located on his plot. Mr Pritchard commented that students from the College had been bothered by bees from the site. Mrs Brown advised that previously there had been a hive at the top of the Wooteys site but following the passing away of the hive owner a few years ago there has been no bees on the site.

The Sub Committee discussed the possibility of a hives on plots, Councillor Mrs Jones asked if there was any national guidance. Mr Pritchard agreed to seek guidance from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. It was agreed to consult plot holders on all of our sites and also neighbouring residents as all of the sites are in residential areas of the town. Mrs Brown would send a letter to all plot holders on all sites and neighbouring residents. Following the consultation of plot holders and residents the Sub Committee would discuss bee hives on plots at a future meeting.

4 **Parking at Spitalfields/Wooteys**

Mrs Brown informed the meeting that she was no further with the transfer of land at the end of Edward Road from East Hampshire District Council to the Town Council. Councillor Mrs Jones suggested to Mrs Brown to contact East Hampshire District Council directly to ascertain whether the land transfer was to be possible.

5 Site SecuritySpitalfields/Wooteys

Mr Pritchard raised his concern at the break-ins in April on the Spitalfields/Wooteys sites. The intruders had gained access through the chain link fence and the Town Council to increase its security to the allotment sites. Mrs Brown confirmed that there are patrols of all the Town Council's sites, which does include the allotments. Councillor Mrs Jones also advised that she would report the break-ins at the next CTCG meeting she attends. Mr Pritchard also asked for the closure of a footpath which runs near the site as this would act as a further deterrent. Mrs Brown agreed to seek guidance from Hampshire County Council's Rights of Way Department as the footpath forms part of their remit.

Whitedown

Mr Pritchard asked if the gates and fence at the western end of the site could be raised in height by approximately 3ft to prevent anyone from trying to climb over into the site.

Councillor Mrs Jones asked Mr Smith to carry out an audit of all the allotment sites fences and gates and asked him to put together any costing implications. Councillor Mrs Jones also asked Mrs Brown to include in her letter to ploholders the importance of site security and that they should not keep items of value on their plots.

6 Flower Meadow - Hawthorns

Mrs Morgans advised the meeting that Doctor June Chatfield had visited the site and took a soil sample to see what could grow over a year ago and had heard no more. Mr Smith advised the area was regularly maintained by the Town Council's Grounds Team. Councillor Mrs Cullen suggested a site visit with herself, Councillor Mrs Jones, Mrs Morgans and Doctor Chatfield to discuss a proposed flower meadow as this would encourage the bees that are kept in a hive at the top of the site.

7 Re-letting of Plots

Mr Pritchard asked who took care of the vacant plots as the Allotment Association relies on volunteers. Mr Smith informed the meeting that Mrs Brown advises the Grounds Team who undertake strimming of vacant plots and removing any items left by the previous tenant to give a new tenant a reasonable chance when taking on a plot.

8 Any other business

Mrs Brown notified the meeting that the waiting list was at an all-time low and the Whitedown site did not have anyone on the list. Councillor Mrs Jones asked if this could be added to the Town Council's weekly roundup that is shared on Facebook.

Councillor Mrs Jones asked Mr Pritchard if the Allotments Association were in a position to release their Ploholders Handbook in conjunction with the Town Council's Handbook. Mr Pritchard advised that the Association's is not yet available. Councillor Mrs Jones asked Mrs Brown to distribute the Town Council's version with a letter to all ploholders.

Mr Pritchard informed the meeting the Allotment Association would be hold a Harvest Show on Saturday 2 September in The Maltings and an invitation would be sent to the Town Mayor asking not only his attendance but also to be a judge on the day.

Mrs Bond asked that during her recent plot inspections she has found it difficult to find plot numbers on the sites and asked if ploholders could try and make these visible to aid in identification.

9 **Date of next meeting**

The date of next meeting is Thursday 7 September at 9:30am.

The meeting closed at 10:45am.

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