

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD REMOTELY
ON WEDNESDAY 2ND JUNE 2021 AT 10:00AM**

Present:	Councillor Pam Jones	-	Chairman
	Samantha Brown	-	Councillor Support/Admin Officer
	Pat Harding	-	Alton Allotment Association - Secretary
	Yvonne Thorne	-	Site Representative - Wootneys
	Marcus van Hagen	-	Alton Allotment Association - Chairman

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pam Bradford, Steve Herbert, Maggie Martin, Marion Morgans, Mike Penn and Kate Quick.

2 **Minutes and matters arising from the meeting held on 20th April 2021**

Due to Councillor Bradford tendering her apologies Councillor Jones chaired the Sub Committee. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2021 were agreed.

Mrs Brown reported back that she had identified possible locations for additional water storage containers/butts. The communal sheds could be utilised, Hawthorns already has two water butts alongside its shed. It could be part of the condition when a plot holder applies for permission to erect a shed that a water butt should also be considered. The Hawthorns site is prevented from having sheds, as part of the original planning consent for the site and therefore alternative water storage would have to be looked into.

Following on from the previous meeting a further discussion was had on plot markers. Previously a cast iron marker has been used and during Mrs Brown's time with the Town Council and number of other markers have been used, both wooden and metal (*see photographs below supplied by Mr van Hagen after the meeting*).



It was agreed that a more unified marker should be sourced. Once agreed, supplied and installed the ploholders would need to be reminded that their plot number would need to be visible on their plots as they are needed as part of the plot inspection process.

3 **Allotment Round-up**

Mrs Brown sought confirmation from the Sub Committee that they were content with plot Wooteys WO109 being offered to the next person on the waiting list following an unfortunate incident with the previous ploholder. All those present agreed for the plot to be offered to the next person on the waiting list.

Councillor Jones asked the sites had “Whatsapp” groups setup or if it would be appropriate to have QR codes made up for each site and available on gates and communal places on the sites. The QR code could give ploholders information about each site and provide updates during the course of the year. Mr van Hagen agreed that it would be beneficial but did not want to eliminate those who could not access the technology.

Mrs Harding wished to raise the water consumption and cost for the sites. The meter readings are taken when the water is turned on at the beginning and end of the season (approximately April and October). It was agreed that Mrs Brown would take meter readings as part of the allotment inspections and be monitored.

Councillor Jones enquired about the number of people on the waiting list and Mrs Brown reported that there was currently 70 on the list. There could be potential in expanding Hawthorns but this will have to be explored further.

Mrs Harding on behalf of Mrs Martin provided the meeting with the charges for the Association to carry out the maintenance on the sites. The grass cutting in 2015 was £38.77p and is now £42.65p and the strimming of vacant plots, if needed was £15 and also £15 for the side paths.

Mr van Hagen reported the Association was looking to purchase a new strimmer/brush cutter. Councillor Jones suggested the Association approach East Hampshire District Councillors to see if they can support the purchase with a grant. Mrs Brown would provide Mr van Hagen with their details.

Mrs Brown will also provide the Site Representatives an up-to-date list of all the ploholders on their respect sites.

4 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15th September 2021. However, this will clash with the inspections. It was agreed that an alternative date would be circulated to the Sub Committee.

The meeting closed at 10:44am.

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