

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD REMOTELY
ON WEDNESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2021 AT 9:30AM**

Present:	Councillor Pam Jones	-	Chairman
	Samantha Brown	-	Councillor Support/Admin Officer
	Martin Whapshott	-	Senior Groundsman
	Pat Harding	-	Alton Allotment Association - Secretary
	Maggie Martin	-	Alton Allotment Association - Treasurer
	Marion Morgans	-	Site Representative - Hawthorns
	Kate Quick	-	Site Representative – Whitedown

1 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Steve Herbert, Marcus van Hagen, Mike Penn and Yvonne Thorne.

2 **Minutes and matters arising from the meeting held on 2nd June 2021**

Mrs Brown advised the meeting that she had obtained quotes for a metal plot number (similar to a road sign) on a post which comes in at approximately £22.50 per number and also plastic similar to a vehicle number plate at approximately £13 but this did not include the post. She advised the Sub Committee that she had a meeting with the National Allotment Association scheduled for 9th December and will speak to them about how other Councils and sites operate their numbering system.

3 **Allotment Round-up**

Mrs Martin asked if the access to the Wooteys site from Edward Road could be re-visited as deliveries to the site have been hampered due to increased parking at Edward Road. The piece of land is owned by East Hampshire District Council and Mrs Brown advised that a previous District Councillor was going to see if the land could be reworked with an access track and also provide parking for ploholders. It was agreed that Mrs Brown would make contact with current Ward Councillor at East Hampshire District Council and see if any progress had been made.

Mrs Harding asked that all Site Representatives be provided with an up to date list of ploholders. It was agreed that this would be sent after the renewals in the new year.

Mrs Thorne via Mrs Harding wished to know when the hedge on Wooteys/Spitalfields that borders the cemetery would be cut. Mr Whapshott confirmed that the Grounds Team would cut the hedge once the District Council had cut the cemetery side. Mrs Brown would make contact with the Cemeteries Officer at the District Council to determine when these works are to be undertaken.

Mrs Morgans commented that one side of the fencing at Hawthorns was leaning due to the cattle grazing in the field next to the site. Mr Whapshott advised the grazier had erected post and rail fencing and the Town Council would look at hawthorn/hazel hedging to be planted between the two fences. Councillor Jones asked if an audit of fencing could be included in the inspections. Mrs Brown

and Mr Whapshott agreed that they would check fencing during the first inspection (March) and the last (October).

Mrs Brown confirmed to the Sub Committee that the inspections for the season had gone well this year and thanked the Site Representatives for their contributions over the season. As part of the monthly inspections water readings will take place to identify water usage on each site and report back to the Site Representatives if consumption has significantly increased.

Mrs Quick added that it had been her first year as Site Representative for Whitedown and was really happy and thanked both Mrs Brown and Mr Whapshott for their support and for being very proactive.

Mrs Morgans asked if wildflower planting at the top of Hawthorns could be revisited. It was agreed that Mrs Brown would seek guidance from Doctor June Chatfield in respect of species that would be beneficial to the site.

The Sub Committee discussed plots being available to people with mobility issues. The Wooteys site does have three raised beds and a smaller plot which was funded by the National Lottery approximately 15 years ago. The raised beds are being tended by a plothead with a health condition, not a physical disability, as it is easier for them to work at height. The smaller plot is maintained by a partially sighted plothead. Mrs Brown also advised that one of the plots on the Wooteys site is tended by people with dementia working on it, under the supervision of Dementia Friendly Alton. There is currently no-one of the waiting list for a 'special needs' plot but this is something to be considered should a new allotment site be obtained and established.

Mr Whapshott reminded the Allotment Association that if they made their mowers available for their annual service, he would take them to the Town Council's contractor for the service and the Association would reimburse the Town Council on completion of the service of their equipment.

Mrs Harding asked Mr Whapshott when the Grounds Team would be able to undertake the hedge cutting at Borovere, Mr Whapshott advised it was scheduled for the week commencing 8th November.

Councillor Jones asked if the Association had any items they would like to be put forward to the Town Council's Budget Workshop in January. Mrs Martin said the only item that she had been made aware of, from Mr van Hagen, was boot scrappers for all sites. He had also mentioned solar lighting and the Sub Committee discussed this and could not see the benefit of this item being added.

4 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20th April 2022.

The meeting closed at 10:23am.

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