

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held at 6.00pm on Monday, 3 June 2019 in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, DL17 8JL.**

PRESENT: Councillors: K. Conroy, D Farry and N. Jones

Officers: D. Shingleton, Acting Town Clerk; R Seymour, Works Manager

Allotment Representatives: 11 Representatives from allotment sites at Paxton Street, East End, Mainsforth Row, Bertha Street and Storehouse

A01.19-20 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor N Jones be Chair of the Allotments Sub- Committee for the year 2019/2020.

A02.19-20 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE YEAR 2019-2020

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor D Farry be Chair of the Allotments Sub- Committee for the year 2019/2020.

A03.19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J Lindsay.

A04.19-20 MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations were received.

A05.19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

A06.19-20 ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES – ISSUES

Various issues were raised by the allotment representatives, including:

- a) There had been a serious assault at East End Allotments (see below)
- b) Claims had been made that the allotment rents had been increased by 13% for next year. Mr Shingleton attempted to explain that this was not the case. The rents (including water) were increasing from £25 to £28.
- c) Questions were asked regarding the situation with Bertha Street allotments. No decision had been made at this stage – staff had only been asked to investigate the situation regarding the Council possibly giving up the site (see below).

A07.19-20 RENTS AND WATER CHARGES

This matter had been already been discussed and is referred to above.

A08.19-20 RUBBISH REMOVAL AND SUBSEQUENT MANAGEMENT

Discussion took place on the issue of removing rubbish from sites and subsequent management. It was agreed that a proce for skips be obtained.

A09.19-20 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** “that in accordance with the provision of Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, as amended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council do now exclude the public and press for the remaining items of the Agenda by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted since publicity would be prejudicial to public interest.”

A10.19-20 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 14 MARCH 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 be agreed as a correct record.

A11.19-20 BERTHA STREET ALLOTMENTS

Further to discussions earlier in the meeting, it was agreed that arrangements would be made to bring the lease up to date.

A12.18-19 DAVY STREET ALLOTMENTS

The Works Manager provided an update on the current position. It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the matter be deferred to August, and that the Chair of the Sub-Committee would make a site visit.

A13.19-20 CORRESPONDENCE FROM TENANT OF EAST END ALLOTMENT

Consideration was given to a letter from a tenant who rents 14 plots at East End Allotments which she uses as open land for her horse. She felt that the water charge of £182 was excessive in the light of the horse using comparatively little water. It was suggested that smart meters be installed so that people pay only for what they use.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the charge for water for this year be reduced to £100.

A14.19-20 ASSAULT AT EAST END ALLOTMENTS

The father of the man assaulted at east End Allotments gave an account of what had happened and the impact it had had on the family. After many years as allotment holders they intended to give up the plot. Despite this, the victim did not intend to press charges.

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that the Acting Town Clerk contact Mr B Lamb for more details, the Police to ensure that they are aware of the situation and that the tenant who carried out the assault be removed from the site and be banned from all others within Ferryhill.

A15.19-20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 2nd September 2019

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 7.20pm

CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIR.....

DATE.....