

**FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE held at 6.00pm on Monday, 2 September 2019 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, DL17 8JL.

**PRESENT:** **Councillors:** N. Jones (Chair), K. Conroy, J. Lindsay, L. Smith and R. Smith

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

**Allotment Representatives:** 6 Representatives from allotment sites at Paxton Street, East End, Bertha Street and Storehouse

**Other:** Councillor J. Makepeace (Observer)

**A16.19-20** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

**A17.19-20** **MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS**

No requests for dispensations were received.

**A18.19-20** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

**A19.19-20** **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 3<sup>rd</sup> JUNE 2019**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to minute A02.19-20 being amended by the addition of the word “vice” before the word “chair”.

**A20.19-20** **ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES – ISSUES**

Various issues were raised by the allotment representatives, including:

- a) Rodent control – the Works Manager confirmed that treatment of each site would start within the next two weeks.
- b) Theft of equipment – it was confirmed that the Council did not have insurance in place to cover stolen items of equipment. It was pointed out that there is a lockable container on the site of East End allotments.
- c) Storehouse – the representative thanked the Council for installing water on the site earlier than expected. The Works Manager stated that the untidy vacant site had now been let. In relation to providing a skip, the Works Manager stated that it could not be provided on site due to access problems but could be provided outside of the site. This would be done when requested.

**A21.19-20 EAST END ALLOTMENTS**

The representative from East End allotments confirmed that all cash resources had been spent and nothing remained to transfer to the Council. It was **RESOLVED** that the minute of the meeting agreeing to seek to recover outstanding cash by possibly involving the Police be provided.

**A22.19-20 PAXTON STREET ALLOTMENTS**

The Acting Town Clerk reported on the current situation regarding the management committee and stated that, as far as he was aware, no-one had expressed an interest in taking over the roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, or filling the three vacant positions on the Management Committee. The current Chair of the Association confirmed that he had received no interest but another meeting was to be held shortly. It was **RESOLVED** that the deadline for interest to be shown be extended to 30 September.

**A23.19-20 BERTHA STREET ALLOTMENTS**

The Acting Town Clerk informed the meeting that he had asked the owners and managing agents of the site for the current position regarding the transfer of the lease to the Allotment Association. He had received no reply from either. Members agreed that official confirmation was required in writing from the owners. It was **RESOLVED** that the Acting Town Clerk write again to the Cathedral requesting details of the current position. It was also agreed that the key in the possession of the Council be handed back to the Association.

**A24.19-20 DAVY STREET AND BRUNEL STREET ALLOTMENTS**

Members considered details of the two sites provided by Livin. It was noted that an estimate had been received, for information only, to erect a fence at the edge of the site amounting to £9,802. The main issue, however, was the presence of Japanese Knotweed at Davy Street. It was **RESOLVED** that any decision on taking over the allotments be deferred until a site survey has been received.

**A25.19-20 OTHER**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that, if the transfer of Davy Street, Brunel Street and Paxton Street allotments was completed there would be an additional 165 allotments or thereabouts to be managed by the Council, making the just under 300. This is likely to have staffing implications if the allotments are to be managed effectively for the benefit of the tenants. A report would be prepared in due course.

**A12.18-19 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 2nd December 2019

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 6.45pm

**CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD**

**CHAIR**.....

**DATE**.....