

FERRYHILL TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE held at 6.00pm on Monday, 11 November 2019 in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Ferryhill, DL17 8JL

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

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

A27.19-20 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Makepeace be appointed as Vice Chair for the Allotments Sub-Committee

A28.19-20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

It was noted that this meeting was originally schedule for Tuesday, 5 November 2019 but had to be deferred due to only Councillors Conroy and Lindsey being present and the meeting being inquorate. Apologies for this were presented by the remaining members of the Sub-Committee.

A29.19-20 MEMBERS DISPENSATIONS

No requests for dispensations were received.

A30.19-20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

A31.19-20 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 2nd SEPTEMBER 2019

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2019 be approved as a correct record, subject to reference to Councillor Lindsey submitting his apology in minute A16.19-20 being deleted, as he attended the meeting.

A32.19-20 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.”

A33.19-20 ALLOTMENT MATTERS

Members considered a report from the Acting Town Clerk on various allotment matters, as follows:

Davy Street and Brunel Street – a report has been received addressing the issue of invasive weeds at these sites. No Japanese Knotweed was found within the Davy Street site, although it could be seen to the North of the allotments. However, Himalayan Balsam is present on the site. A programme for dealing with the weeds was presented, starting immediately and ending in Spring 2021, at a cost of £1,000. The matter of installing a fence at the back of the Davy Street site was also considered.

Paxton Street – it was confirmed that no-one had been found to replace the officers of the Association, or to fill the three vacancies on the Management Committee. The Acting Town Clerk updated members on the situation regarding cash balances, having received further advice. Any cash balances remain the property of the tenants as the Association is separate from the Council.

Storehouse – Japanese Knotweed has been found here. One quote had been received for dealing with this and more were required. There is no other option but to deal with the weed.

Bertha Street – it was noted that management of these allotments had been handed over to the Association.

Other Issues – taking over Brunel Street, Davy Street and Paxton Street allotments would mean that the Council were now managing 302 allotments. If this responsibility is to be managed effectively then there may be staffing implications to ensure the necessary level of service.

Following a considerable discussion of the issues it was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that it is recommended to the Council that:

- a) The Council takes over ownership of Davy Street and Brunel Street allotments, and that the quote for the treatment of invasive weeds be accepted;
- b) The proposal for a fence at the back of Davy Street be not agreed;
- c) Management of Paxton Street allotments be transferred to the Council with effect from 1 January 2020. Further consideration be given to the garages on this site and the Acting Town Clerk to research charges in other Councils;
- d) The proposal with regard to invasive weeds at Storehouse be progressed subject to obtaining additional quotes;
- e) The situation regarding the transfer of Bertha Street allotments be noted;
- f) The implications of the above for staffing be considered by the Personnel Sub-Committee at the appropriate time.

A34.19-20 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.....