

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of a meeting of the Allotment Committee
held on Saturday 29 June 2024

Present:– Cllr. C. Searle (CS)

Councillors

C. Baty (CB) & A. Reynolds (AR).

Also present: Wendy Jameson (Town Clerk), Tracey Wood & Jim Cole.

273.	Apologies: Cllrs. O. Martin & K. Orchard. Absent: Cllrs. John Cook & A. Emmerson.	
274.	Declarations of Interest: None.	
275.	Exclusion of Press and Public: None.	
276.	Minutes It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 6 April 2024 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
277.	Adjournment of meeting There was no reason to adjourn the meeting.	
278.	Site Inspection Allotment holders had been notified beforehand that a full inspection would be taking place and had been requested to be present to allow full access to the allotments. The committee were able to see all the allotments which made it much easier and for which the committee were grateful • 1b – Letter to be sent to ask what the tenant is doing with the area at the end of his allotment. • 2a & 3a – Following previous letters and no visible improvement, Notice to Quit to be sent. Someone else has been seen using the allotment who does not have a tenancy with the Council. • 2b – Letter to be sent regarding non-cultivation of the plot. • 2c - Following previous letters and no visible improvement, Notice to Quit to be sent. • Pigeon loft – Tenant had an accident and is unlikely to return. Enquiries to be made about the future of their pigeon loft. • 7b – Tenant is giving up his plot. Letter to be sent to ask that it is tidied up before allocating to someone on the waiting list. • 20a - Following previous letters and no visible improvement, Notice to Quit to be sent. • 19a - Following previous letters and no visible improvement, Notice to Quit to be sent. If a plot needs to be cleared at the end of a tenancy a quote will be obtained and the tenant notified of the cost, to give them an opportunity to arrange for the work to be done themselves. It was agreed that a full inspection should take place on an annual basis at the same time of year which would help to identify any plots which are not being cultivated or used for chickens. Notice to be place on the noticeboard thanking tenants for their co-operation and notifying them of the date of the next Allotment meeting.	WEJ WEJ WEJ WEJ WEJ WEJ WEJ
279.	Problems & Issues • Grounds maintenance team will be asked to cut the grass on the road into the allotments. • It was questioned whether there could be some regulation on when fires are being lit on the allotments as the smoke can cause an issue to other allotment holders. There also needs to be some regulation on what is being burnt. • Flooding on certain allotments has been an issue but there is very little that can be done. It is mostly due to how low-lying certain plots are and the amount of heavy rainfall there has been in recent months. It was suggested that existing tenants whose plots are subject to flooding could be offered alternative plots elsewhere on the site.	WEJ
280.	Waiting List/Vacant Plots	

	There are currently two recently vacated plots (10a & 7b) and another coming up later in the year. Following the NTQ letters, there will be more coming vacant. There are currently nine people on the waiting list, two of whom are existing tenants who wish to take on an additional plot. New allotment holders are given precedence.	
281.	National Allotment Society A reply was received from the National Allotment Society in relation to the suggestion of charging a higher rent to new tenants and charging a deposit. Due to the Allotments Act 1950 section 10, the rise of the rents might not be seen as reasonable. Regarding a deposit scheme, the value of the deposit needs to be clear, at a fair level in comparison to the rent and stored in a separate bank account. The agreement needs to be clear in the terms of the deposit being returned and how the deposit will be used if not returned to the plot holder. It was agreed that a deposit of £100 be charged to new tenants, from the start of the new year i.e. November onwards.	
282.	Date of next meeting The next meeting will be on Saturday 7 September 2024 at 10am at the allotments.	

Signed.....

Date.....