



Minutes of a Meeting of the Allotment Committee held at The Rackliff Centre on Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm

PARTICIPANTS

Members Present: Cllrs Angela Funnell (Chair), Dave Funnell, Paul Gripper and Mark Coghlan.

Officers Present: Jon Vanns, Allotments Manager

Others Present: Allan Farmer, Doug Smith and 13 members of the public.

RECORDING OF THE MEETING

001/25A No one present filmed, photographed or recorded this meeting.

APOLOGIES

002/25A Apologies were received from Cllr Liz Ellicott and Suzanne French.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

003/25A There were none.

DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

004/25A There were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

005/25A It was **resolved** that the Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meetings held on 30 September 2024, copies of which had previously been distributed to Members, be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

MATTERS OUTSTANDING FROM THESE MINUTES (NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE)

006/25A **First aid kits** – the Allotments Manager confirmed they are now on all three sites.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

007/25A The committee was asked if any unspent monies in the grass cutting budget could be moved to the allotment maintenance budget. The committee agreed this was a good idea and will make a recommendation to council. **Action: Clerk to add to council agenda.**

UPDATE FROM ALLOTMENT MANAGER

008/25A The allotments manager, Jon Vanns, reported;

- There are currently 7 plots vacant;
- There are 2 lots of outstanding rent;
- There have been no security issues since last meeting;
- Crossways has been given permission to build a tool shed on their plot;
- We continue to look at solutions to the water leak on Southwood Road; going forward, water will be turned off in September and switched back on in March;
- There are now AEDs on 2 sites along with ones in village which are checked monthly;

- The invitation to tender for the grass cutting contract will be sent out next week;
- There will be a meeting with community services (community payback) and AM next week;
- A collection of tools for general loan has been started on SWE.

SHED FOR SOUTHWOOD EXTENSION

009/25A It was **agreed** that a shed was needed for the site and the committee would commit £1,000 of the Allotment Maintenance budget. **Action: Allotments Manager.**
Post meeting note: decision to be made by Full Council as capital expenditure.
JV to obtain 3 quotes

TOILET FOR WICKHAM GARDENS SITE

010/25A Information gathered by committee members was shared with the meeting. A plot holder from Wickham Gardens explained why they felt this facility was required and the reasons for installing a compostable toilet. They asked if the council could contribute £2,000 towards the cost of a toilet with installation potentially being provided, free of charge, by a local builder. The possibility of having toilets on all sites was raised. It was **noted** that there are budget restrictions and fundraising will need to take place. It was **agreed** to establish a sub-committee to further investigate the viability of the proposal. Cllrs Mark Coghlan, Angela Funnell and David Funnell agreed to sit on the sub-committee along with the Allotments Manager, Doug Smith (WG Rep) and Sue Harte (WG plot holder). The sub-committee will meet on 27th January 2025 at 19.30. It was further **agreed** that finding and fixing the water leak remained the top priority.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

011/25A Borough Cllr Matthew Sankey advised the council to contact Speldhurst Parish Council for advice on acquiring an additional AED.

DIARY DATES

012/25A Next meeting of the Committee, Monday 07 April 2025.

The meeting closed at 20.40

Jon Vanns, Allotments Manager

..... Chairman

Dated