

# WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting of Wanborough Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at Hoopers Field Pavilion starting at 7.30pm.

**Present:** Cllr Dave Hayward (Chairman), Cllr John Warr, Cllr Omar Mirza, Val Curtis (Covingham Parish Council), Freddie Day (allotment rep.)

**In Attendance:** Julie Flenley (Locum Parish Clerk), Sarah Harding (Parish Clerk) and 3 members of public.

Minute ref

AC/09/23/

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Cllr Joe Smith and approved at the meeting.
2. Declaration of interests: Cllr Hayward noted his non-pecuniary interest as an allotment holder.
3. **THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS.**  
*A member of the public raised a question as to why Cllr Smith was not in attendance at this and several previous Committee meetings, and why he was not in attendance on the allotments in his position as a parish councillor. Cllr Hayward noted the Member's concerns and noted that getting people to represent the Allotments Committee meeting was difficult but understood the Member's concerns. It was noted that there were 2 positions for co-option on the parish council and that there was a possibility of requesting any new councillors to join the Committee. The Locum Clerk also raised the possibility of the Committee being turned into a Working Group to allow allotment plot holders to become further involved in the running, decision making and management of the allotments. Locum Clerk agreed to speak to Cllr Hayward separately.*
4. To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 and note the informal record of the inquorate meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023:  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 - **Proposed:** Cllr Hayward **Seconded:** Cllr Warr. Agreed unanimously. Motion carried.  
**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023 were unanimously approved.  
No questions were received on the informal notes on the of the inquorate meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Accepted unanimously.
5. Update on Vacant Plots  
5.1 The Committee noted that there were 4 vacant plots at present. A waiting list of 10 people was currently held by the council (3 Wanborough residents and 7 Covington residents). There was mention of a two-year waiting list in relation to the number of residents waiting. Residents wishing to become allotment holders emailed the Clerk and were added to the waiting list.  
**Resolved:** Parish Council noted the above for the record. Locum Clerk to liaise with Cllr Hayward in relation to the waiting list and vacant plots.
6. To discuss complaint in relation to the bonfire smoke from the allotment site  
Councillors noted that the plot holder had been addressed with regards to the bonfire. No further instances/complaints had been recorded. Comments from the informal, inquorate meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June were noted.  
**Resolved:** Parish Council noted the response and would keep the situation under review.
7. To note the recent minor theft at the allotments and alert plot holders  
Theft of a plastic chair was noted for the records and no other thefts were reported. It was not reported to the police by the allotment tenant. Councillors noted that a complaint had been made by a female plot holder who had received inappropriate comments from an adjacent plot holder.  
**Resolved:** Parish Council noted the response and would keep the situation under review.

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8. Security Fencing – to discuss the offer of Heras fencing

Councillor Hayward noted that the discussions had ground to a halt and fencing had been taken back by Swindon Borough Council. Connectors had not been delivered for the fencing as they have been used elsewhere. Councillor Hayward to update the Committee should the situation change.

**Resolved:** Parish Council noted the fencing situation and would keep it under review.

9. To update the Committee on the Annual Allotment Competition and Presentation

Cllr Hayward noted that the Annual Allotment Competition went well this year and that there was a good turnout amongst residents. It was noted that we would need to make a decision on next year, with the possibility of a presentation in October, at the end of the season. Noted for a future agenda item.

**Resolved:** The Allotments Committee noted that decisions around the next Allotments Competition and presentation would be included on a future agenda for discussion and resolution.

10. To discuss the annual meeting of the allotment holders

The Committee discussed the possibility of holding Allotment Committee Meetings in the following order to coincide with allotment holders cultivating their plots for the coming year. It was recognized that plot holders who do not cultivate their plots by Easter tended to not farm their plot for the rest of the year. Warning letters had been sent out previously, which would need to be addressed in a number of plots going forward but this would tie in neatly with Mr. Day's reports and the meetings would be scheduled as follows:

- January 2024
- April 2024
- July 2024
- October 2024 (after the Allotments Competition)

**Resolved:** The Allotments Committee noted the months to hold Committee meetings going forward and will await instructions from the Clerk in terms of meeting schedules.

11. Date of next meeting: TBC when dates are confirmed for 2024/25.