

**WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL**

M I N U T E S

of the

Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee  
Meeting held in the Town Hall, Wallingford  
on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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P R E S E N T

Councillors Baroni, Hughes, Kidley and Upcraft,  
In Attendance – Mrs Tracey Collins (Officer and minute taker),  
Mr Bryan Gilbey (Parks Foreman)

**244. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Due to the current Chair being unable to attend the meeting

It was Proposed by Councillor Upcraft, Seconded by Councillor Hughes and  
**RESOLVED THAT** Councillor Kidley is elected  
Chairman of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and  
Open Spaces Committee for the duration of tonight's  
meeting.

**Councillor Baroni arrived 7.05**

**245. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Lester

**246. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

A Councillor with voting rights who has a disclosable pecuniary interest or another interest as set out in our Council's Standing Orders Code of Conduct (Item 13) in a matter being considered at a meeting is subject to statutory limitations or restrictions under code of conduct and his right to participate and vote on the matter (guidelines are available at the meeting and all Councillors have received a copy prior to the meeting) Information for each Member was available at the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest.

**247. ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC**

There were no admissions to the Public

**248. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – NOTIFIED AND IMPROMPTU**  
**15 MINUTES IN TOTAL)**

**1) Mr Mark Brett - 1155 Society**

Mr Brett spoke about the possibility of the Town Council buying or contributing to some trackway to be used on the open spaces by the event organisers. Mr Brett explained that he had hired some track for Bunkfest, although time consuming to lay it has saved the grass on the Kinecroft. Mr Brett suggested going to the Showman's Show with Mr Gilbey to look at different tracks and costs. Councillor Upcraft informed Mr Brett that there was no money in the budget for this year but if proposals with costs could be put forward then this could be looked at next year. Mr Brett and Mr Gilbey agreed they would work together on this.

**2) Allotment Holders**

Mrs Head together with Mr & Mrs Wheatcroft, Mr Norbury and Mr Buch all wanted more information about Thames Water gaining access to the site and digging the trench needed for the water pipes.

Mrs Collins was able to give a very brief update. Unfortunately Wallingford Town Council had not been able to give much information to the allotments holders previously as Thames Water had not been forthcoming with details or updates. The work on digging the trench was due to start w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> September but Councillor Lloyd had put a hold on this because Thames Water had not requested a permit to close the footpath, the work has not yet started but as soon as Thames Water have the permit they will be on site and they have every right to do as they need as they are following the Water Act 1981 so Wallingford Town Council cannot stop them gaining access and continuing the work. The Town Council are trying desperately to get more information from Thames Water, will the site be closed to all, could it be open to pedestrians only, how long might it be closed, what type of equipment will be used, which plots will be affected, how badly affected, compensation for damaged plots, the Town Council would like to have a meeting with Thames Water but as yet this has not been arranged. As soon as more information is available it will be relayed to all plot holders.

Councillor Upcraft informed the allotment holders that there was a meeting with the developers on the 9<sup>th</sup> October at Hithercroft Sports Trust from 7pm – 8pm to meet with the community and might be worth allotments holders going along. There would be more information in the Wallingford Town Council Newsletter.

Mr Crook asked why there was a lack of spending at the allotments, the hedges, water, footpaths, general maintenance is lacking why is this?

Mrs Collins produced some financial details from the 2017/2018 accounts which she thought might be helpful. As you can see the allotments ran at a loss.

### **Allotment income and expenditure 2017/18**

<b>Income</b>	<b>(£)</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>(£)</b>
Allotment fees	2,567.00	Salaries	378.00
Allotment admin	210.00	Water	709.51
		Skips to clear allotment	555.00
		Tree surgery work	1,800.00
		Repair and maintenance	42.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>2,777.00</u></b>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b><u>3,484.51</u></b>
		<b>Deficit</b>	<b><u>707.51</u></b>

There was a lot of work done on the hedges and trees last year and the skips that have been delivered over the May bank holiday weekend for many years will no longer be a delivered. Mrs Collins explained that she has been working well with the plot holders, she regularly visits the site to make inspections and check everything is ok, Mrs Collins is always available if there is a problem or anyone has any concerns. All plot holders can pop into the office, call 01491 835373 or e-mail [admin@wallingfordtowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:admin@wallingfordtowncouncil.gov.uk).

Mrs Wheatcroft suggested putting more information on the new notice board. Mrs Collins tries to do this in her own time, on way in to work or on way home but agreed she would make more of an effort.

Mr Verge wanted to express his concerns about the distance from his plot to the nearest water trough (60 metres) and suggested using a borehole. Mr Gilbey explained that the row of allotments that Mr Verge occupied were new plots and many years ago there was little need for too many troughs, over the years the climate has changed. Mr Verge suggested an initial outlay of around £2000 then the running cost of electricity this would in the long run save the Town Council money and help with the carrying of water to plots a distance away. Councillor Upcraft asked Mr Verge to obtain more information and some costs.

Mr Norbury explained that some years ago a small area of all the plots from 29 to 40 was taken away by the Council to use as a footpath but this is no longer being used, can we have the area back? Mr Gilbey explained that this area was indeed taken away so that the area could be accessed for grass cutting but he explained that this was no longer

the case as the plots had increased and the area was now inaccessible, Mr Gilbey would be happy for the tenants to have the land back. Mrs Collins asked if she could meet Mr Norbury at the plots to look at the area to ensure everyone would still have access and understand how much land there was, she would also need to speak with the Town Clerk as to how this would work.

#### **249. MINUTES**

- i) To sign as a correct record the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as set out on pages 62 - 66 of the Minute Book.

It was Proposed by Councillor Hughes, Seconded by Councillor Kidley and

**RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018 as set out on pages 62 - 66 of the Minute Book, copies circulated to Councillors, be signed as a correct record.

#### **250. ALLOTMENTS**

- a) Mrs Collins reported that there were eight people on the waiting list, but this was growing steadily. Notice to Quit had been issued to two tenants, both plots were to be re-issued very soon even though they are both in a terrible state.
- b) The winner of the Wallingford Town Council, Allotment Shield was awarded to Mrs Denise Wyatt at the Wallingford, Allotments and Gardens Society Show on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September

#### **251. PARKS STAFF**

- a) Parks Foreman Update.

Mr Gilbey reported that he was progressing well with Mrs Saunders in the office with all Health and Safety procedures.

Mr Pearson is working out well. Not only is he locking and unlocking the Gardens he has also been supporting other members of staff at weddings and events in the town.

Ms Dickinson has received some really good feedback on the Thames Forum.

The part-time summer staff have worked out well again, we will look at revising hours next year.

There have been no problems with the events so far this year, the dry weather has helped as the Kincroft has not had to cope with too much

damage.

There has been a lot of positive feedback about the summer displays which has been very encouraging. The only problem we have had this summer is the number of cars parked on the double yellow lines which has made pulling up in the tractor difficult and delayed watering when we have waited for vehicles to move.

## **252. BULL CROFT PARK**

- a) Councillor Baroni gave a brief update from the Bullcroft working party. It's a long and time consuming process but we have now received six tenders from interested architects and have narrowed this down to three. We are in discussion with Heritage England and hope to come up with a master plan soon.
- b) Update on minute number 162 (b), 9<sup>th</sup> July 2018, contractors are due to look at a section of the Bullcroft footpath this week.

### **To note forthcoming events on the Bullcroft:-**

2<sup>nd</sup> December – Style Acre, Santa Run

## **253. KINECROFT**

### **a) Look at ways to prevent damage to the Kinecroft during events**

Following on from Mr Brett's comments Councillors are in agreement that the open spaces should be protected as much as possible from vehicle damage during events.

It was Proposed by Councillor Upcraft, Seconded by Councillor Baroni and

**RECOMMENDED THAT:** subject to budget and acceptance by the Finance and Properties Committee that trackway is purchased for use by the event organisers to protect the Kinecroft from vehicle damage.

### **To note forthcoming events on the Kinecroft:-**

27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> September, Michaelmas Fair  
3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1155 - Annual Fireworks event  
2<sup>nd</sup> December, Style Acre – Santa Run

## **254. OPEN SPACES**

### **a) Open Spaces Agreement**

This item will be deferred to the next Parks, Gardens, Allotment and Open Spaces meeting.

**b) Wilding Road and Radnor Road Play Areas**

Councillor Baroni gave a brief update, this is an ongoing and long process, SODC are in agreement in principle that some of the Bullcroft play equipment could be re-sited in these areas in due course, on the understanding the Town Council would maintain this equipment and SODC would continue to maintain the land.

**c) Car Parking**

Councillor Davidson was unable to attend so this item will be deferred.

**d) SODC – Deep Clean**

SODC will be in Wallingford from 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> October, litter picking sweeping and removing weeds/moss from pavements. Councillors have given Mrs Collins details of areas that could do with a clean, this information will be passed to SODC.

**To note forthcoming events in Open Spaces –**

11<sup>th</sup> November, Remembrance

12<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Carols around the tree.

**255. CASTLE GARDENS**

**a) Provision of funding for outdoor cinema in Castle Gardens**

Councillor Upcraft would like to propose putting some money in the budget for an open air cinema in the Castle Gardens next year he suggests hiring a large screen so that members of the public can bring a chair or a rug to sit on and watch a film, Councillor Upcraft is still looking at costs and what's involved and will report back in due course.

It was Proposed by Councillor Upcraft, Seconded by Councillor Baroni

**RECOMMENDED THAT** a sum of money be put in the budget to cover expenses for an open air cinema in the Castle Gardens next year.

**To note forthcoming events in Castle Gardens –**

None

**256. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Parks Foreman report

Car Parking – Councillor Davidson

Charges/agreements for use of open spaces – all Councillors

**Meeting closed at approximately 8.15pm**

**Parks, Gardens, Allotments and Open Spaces  
2018-09-10 RL/TC**

**Chairman**