

MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF
ALLOTMENTS WORKING GROUP
HELD ON THE 15TH MARCH 2011

Present: Councillor R Belcourt (in the Chair)
Councillors A Ewart-James & Mrs R Griffiths

Also Present: Mr G Hayward (Twiss Road Allotment tenant), Mr A Joyce (Transition Town Scheme), Ms K Kelly (Twiss Road Allotment Society Secretary), Mrs Judith McCormick (Town Clerk), Mr M Whybrow (Transition Town Scheme), Mr R Wilson (Twiss Road Allotment Society Chairman) & Mrs J Lawford – Allotments Clerk.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Mr Lewis (Eaton Lands tenant).

2. **MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON THE 11TH JANUARY 2011**

Councillor Mrs R Griffiths requested that it be noted that item 7 of the Allotments Working Group minutes should have read “...any *type* of issue to the Police” and that Councillor R Wilson be amended to Mr R Wilson.

It was then

PROPOSED BY: Councillor Mrs R Griffiths

SECONDED BY: Councillor R Belcourt and

AGREED – That the above minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting held on the 11th January 2011, with the above amendments’ being incorporated..

3. **LEASE PROVISIONS FOR ALLOTMENT SITES – MIN 353/10**

The Town Clerk read out the report (Town Clerk’s report 10/10 refers) regarding the proposed lease provisions for allotment sites. All identifiable recipients had been contacted for their views. It was reported that letters had been received in response from Mr R Wilson & Mr G Hayward who were not keen themselves on the idea of leasing the allotments & Mr M Whybrow who considered that it might be of interest to the Transition Town Scheme.

Mr M Whybrow went on to explain the Transition Town Scheme to members. He noted that the following websites might be of interest www.Transitionnetwork.org and www.transition-hythe.com . Mr M Whybrow stated that from a “Transition Town” point of view they were interested in having a community allotment to be leased from the Council. An area at the Eaton Lands North site was being considered. The Town Clerk referred to the allotment waiting list.

The Town Clerk reported on the current finance details re the allotments arrangement. It was noted that £940 (an overspend) of the revenue budget had been spent this year and that £800 would be available in the 2011/12 financial year. She also referred to the capital fund.

There was much discussion from members regarding the pros and cons of leasing the allotments from the Council.

Councillor A Ewart-James reported that by leasing the allotments it would open up various avenues to funding. Mr R Wilson was unsure this was the case as the Twiss Road Allotments did not have permanent status. It was generally considered that if the Twiss Road site were leased, it would likely be for an extended period (for example 21 years) and that this would probably be as good as having permanent status in terms of obtaining funding.

Ms K Kelly stated that the leasing of the allotments would be considered at the Twiss Road Allotment Society AGM and that the representatives would report back to the Council following the meeting.

The fencing of the northern and eastern boundary of the Twiss Road allotments was considered. It was **AGREED** that Councillor R Belcourt and the Allotments Clerk meet Mr R Wilson on site on Wednesday 16th March, at 10am to consider the placement of the gates. The Allotments Clerk was to report back to the Town Clerk.

Mr M Whybrow left the meeting at this juncture.

It was noted that the gates had to be disability compliant; with a width of 1.8m. Quotes had been received for the fencing and two gates; the fencing was being quantified.

The Town Clerk confirmed that upon visiting the Twiss Road allotments recently it was evident that plot 18 appeared to have encroached upon an access way; the allotment went beyond the shed line which should have been the boundary of the plot. The Allotments Clerk was requested to measure up and report back to the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk stated that there were no permitted development rights on allotment sites, and those allotment holders erecting sheds or structures should seek permission from the Town Council as well taking advice from Shepway District Council's planning department.

4. **PROVISION OF SKIPS ON ALLOTMENTS**

It was **AGREED** that a skip be placed at both Longbridge and Twiss Road Allotment sites with allotment holders being given advanced notice.

The question of whether manure should be provided to allotment holders by the Town Council was considered. It was considered that as the budget was minimal and as there was much still to improve at all sites, providing manure was not considered to be an appropriate use of funds.

5. **DATE OF NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING**

It was **AGREED** that the next Allotments Working group meeting take place on the 5th July 2011 following the Plans & Works Committee meeting.

The meeting closed at 11.46 am