

Cottingham Parish Council



ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM
ON FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER 2020 AT 1:15pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Cllrs: Abel, Green & Jump
Allotments Association Representatives: R Bromley & M Brown
Clerk: M Kay
Deputy Clerk: N Pape

616 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY, PREJUDICIAL AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Non received

617 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES

Non received

618 No public or Cllr Duke present for confidential business though meeting suspended until Cllr Green's arrival as meeting not quorate to resolve decisions. Whilst waiting the committee informally discussed the need for an additional Councillor to be appointed to the committee as Cllr Duke, being a plot holder, would often be required to leave meetings.

Cllr Green joined the meeting at 1.28pm

619 TO DISCUSS WATER COSTS

619.1 Roger Bromley asked Cllr Abel if the Parish Office had received the invoice for the recent hedge cutting – Cllr Abel confirmed the invoice has not yet been received

619.2 Cllr Abel read an extract from an email which Roger Bromley had sent to the CNAA Committee following the Allotment Meeting on 9th October:

“Hosepipe usage. It was agreed that the offer of paying for hosepipe use will not be offered in future. A proposed way of paying for excessive use of water is that the average cost for the last few years is taken as a baseline and any extra cost over that will be added as a supplement to the following year's rental”

Cllr Abel reiterated the need for finance to be raised for contribution towards water costs. Roger Bromley suggested that an average figure be taken from the last 3 years costings, 2018/2019 £423.12 and 2019/2020 £384.79. The invoice for 2020/2021 should be received shortly (Roger had turned the water off on 29th October 2020 – during the meeting he gave the meter reading to Cllr Jump who will request the invoice be sent to the Parish Office no later than Wednesday 4th November). Roger Bromley informed the Committee that during 2020 3 plot holders had paid £36 for direct hosepipe watering, totalling £108 to the Parish Council. He estimates the expected water bill would be £650, giving a three-year average of £486. He therefore suggested a surcharge be imposed to cover water bills exceeding £500 (this being the average). This years’ total will however have a deduction of £108 from the hosepipe charges paid. Any surcharge above the agreed £500 would be met by all plot holders, rounded up to the nearest 50 pence. The Committee agreed to this on a majority vote, Cllr Green expressed her disagreement – she felt a larger surcharge should be levied to all plot holders.

Roger Bromley will inform plot holders in this years’ annual newsletter and Clerk Matthew Kay will also send a letter confirming this to the plot holders.

Resolved: Surcharge to plot holders for annual water costs exceeding £500

619.4 Roger Bromley informed the Committee that he had assumed that water costs had always been included within the plot holders annual rent payments – Cllr Abel confirmed this had never been the case. Cllr Green enquired if the Tenancy Agreement stated this. Cllr Abel confirmed the Tenancy Agreement does not and has never stated that water costs are covered as part of the annual rent

619.5 Cllr Abel informed the Committee that other Councils impose an additional fee to plot holders for water costs – an example being Hull City Council charge £8 per plot per year for water usage

619.6 Cllr Green, as a new Parish Councillor, enquired how many years had water costs been paid by the Parish Council – it was estimated at 5/6 years

619.7 Mike Brown confirmed that hosepipe usage had caused water pressure issues to other plot holders wanting to access the water supply. Cllr Abel expressed her concerns that numerous plot holders, who had not paid for the hosepipe usage, were using hoses to fill up own water butts on their plots. The Committee discussed that if all plot holders paid the same surcharge they would hopefully be vigilant amongst themselves to ensure individual plot holders are not using excessive amounts of water

616.8 Mike Brown suggested that for the future the Allotment Association look at ways to promote collection of water from shed/greenhouse roofs into water butts. Roger Bromley informed the Committee that they had looked at doing this with the polytunnels

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Cllr Green left the meeting at 13:57

619.9 Roger Bromley enquired what value plot holders gain from paying their annual rent – Clerk Matthew Kay informed the Committee that the rental income goes towards Parish Council allotment administration costs, water and the annual skip. Roger stated that he had never requested that the Parish Council pay the costs for the skip hire each year

620 MEMBERS POINTS OF INFORMATION AND ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (DISCUSSION ITEMS ONLY)

620.1 Clerk Matthew Kay expressed his views that there seems to be confusion within the Allotment Association regarding the Parish Councils’ allotment budget and suggested this be discussed in further detail at a future meeting

620.2 Roger Bromley requested the value of plot deposits held be discussed at the next meeting. Deposits have only been paid by new tenants for the past few years (it had not been a requirement in the past), Roger suggested plot holders who have never paid a deposit be asked to do so

620.3 Cllr Abel enquired which plot holders form the Allotment Association – Roger Bromley provided the Committee with the names of the seven members

Items for next meeting:

- Clerk to explain how the Parish Council allotment budget works**
- To discuss value of plot deposits held**
- To discuss payment of deposit by all plot holders**

There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 2:05pm

Signed
Chairman of the Parish Council