

Silloth-on-Solway Town Council
Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting
Held on Monday 24 October 2016 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present: G. Wilkinson (GW) – Chairman

Councillors

A. Emmerson (AE)

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), Jenni Lister & David Reeves.

157.	Apologies Cllrs. J. Cook & D. Graham. Also Tracey Wood.	
158.	Declarations of Interest None.	
159.	Exclusion of Press & Public None.	
160.	Minutes It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings held on the 26 March and 26 July 2016 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
161.	<p>Allotment Association A meeting of allotment holders was held on Sunday 16 October and due to concerns about costs, responsibilities, insurance etc those present chose not to proceed with forming an Allotment Association. The allotment holders were keen to periodically to have an informal meeting to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and raise questions etc. The Clerk explained that it was possible to form an Association but without the responsibility of managing the allotments which would remain with the Council. Clerk to obtain information on how it operates in other places. There has been a lack of cohesion in the past.</p> <p>Allocation of Allotments – A standard form is available on the Town Council’s website for applications for allotments. Allotments should be in a clean and cultivable condition when they are allocated. When a tenant gives up an allotment, there needs to be an inspection before the tenant leaves to make sure than the allotment is tidy. Tenancy agreement needs to be looked at to bring it up to date.</p> <p>Condition of allotments – Quarterly inspections to be carried out by the Allotment Committee, so that everyone knows when they are to take place, to ensure that allotments are kept tidy. Gates would need to be unlocked to allow inspections to take place. Concerns were raised that some allotments and pigeon lofts are not being maintained to a decent standard. Rats are a problem. Some allotment holders may not have a copy of their original tenancy agreement and it was suggested that a new tenancy agreement be drafted for everyone which could be sent out at the same time as the bills.</p> <p>Poultry & Wildlife – It was agreed that Knoxwood be asked to visit the site, to advise the tenants on the best way to keep poultry and also advise on how to protect hedgehogs and encourage other wildlife.</p> <p>Rats – Poultry attract rats. Knoxwood may be able to advise on what steps can be taken to avoid encouraging rats. It was questioned whether Allerdale Borough Council would be able to assist. The Clerk has received information on training available in pest control which will be taken back to the Council for their consideration.</p> <p>Drainage & Water – Flooding is an ongoing problem due to the low level of the land. When there has been a particularly wet spell there is not a lot that can be done but considerable work was carried out to the drains in 2014. The drains have been checked again recently. The developers at</p>	<p>WEJ</p> <p>All</p> <p>WEJ</p> <p>JL</p> <p>WEJ</p>

	<p>Harvest Park have been using heavy machinery to move soil from Stanwix field which crosses a drain leading to the allotments. This needs to be monitored and if there is an issue with flooding then further investigation will be required. There are some allotments which don't have access to water taps but there are a lot more taps now than were originally there. There has also been a problem with burst pipes in the past which results in excessive water bills. Survey to be carried out at next site inspection to identify the location of the taps.</p> <p>Security – The present gate is not a deterrent. Everyone needs to be more vigilant. There needs to be a notice to say 'Silloth Town Council – Allotment Holders Only' to deter anyone from just wandering into the allotments – to be sited at the top and where the main access is. It was suggested that the new fencing be continued down the bank towards Hylton Park and filling the gaps in with more shrubs (such as May trees), with a gate at the top of the hill. Costs to be obtained and taken back to Full Council. SelectaDNA kits could be obtained to enable allotment holders to mark their property and signs put up to deter thieves.</p> <p>Dog Faeces – Dog fouling is an issue within the allotments. Fencing and gates will help. Dogs to be kept on a lead when in the allotments, other than when they are within their own plot. Additional signage to be obtained.</p> <p>Noticeboard – Price to be obtained for a noticeboard for use within the allotments and taken back to Full Council. Clerk and allotment representative to have a key to access the noticeboard, so that only relevant information is posted up.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p> <p>WEJ</p> <p>WEJ</p> <p>WEJ</p> <p>WEJ</p>
<p>162.</p>	<p>Waiting List There are currently two people on the waiting list who are existing tenants looking to take on an additional allotment. There are no vacant plots at the moment.</p>	
<p>163.</p>	<p>Allotment Rents The last increase in allotment rents was in 2014. After taking into consideration the costs involved in clearing rubbish from a recently vacated allotment it was RESOLVED that the rents are increased by 10% for this current year.</p> <p>West to East Large Plot £55.00 Half Plot £29.70 Qtr Plot £15.40</p> <p>North to South Large Plot £36.30 Half Plot £18.70 Pigeon Lofts £14.30</p>	
<p>164.</p>	<p>Problems/Issues Discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
<p>165.</p>	<p>Next Meeting Tuesday 22 November at 7.00pm in the Community Hall.</p>	

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