Silloth-on-Solway Town Council Minutes of a meeting of the Allotment Committee Held on Monday 19 October 2015 at 7.00pm at Silloth Community Hall

Present:- Councillors

G. Wilkinson (GW) & A. Emmerson (AE).

Also present: Wendy Jameson – Town Clerk (WEJ), Gordon Baker & Ian Caulfield.

376	Apologies None	
377	Declarations of Interest None	
378	Exclusion of Press & Public There was no need to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting.	
379	 Site Inspection An inspection of the allotments took place. RESOLVED: Letter to be sent to Mr Morgan (plots 19a & 19c) asking him to tidy his plot up as it is overgrown with weeds. Letter to be sent to Mr Brierley (25a & 25b) to ask that the household furniture and rubbish dumped on his allotment is removed. Notice to Quit to be given to the following allotment holders as despite previous letters asking for the plots to be tidied up: a) K. Irwin – plot 26a b) M. Jones – plot 26b c) F. Denard – plot 20a The plots belonging to Mr Potter and Mrs Lister have been tidied up following the letters sent after the last allotment inspection. Mr Minnican has also tidied up his pigeon loft. Mr Reid who has on plot 3a has now moved to 7b. Tenancy agreement to be sent. 	WEJ WEJ
380	Minutes RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2015 be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.	
381	Waiting List and Vacant Plots There is currently one vacant plot – 3a. Up to date waiting list to be obtained from Frank. RESOLVED that the Town Council to take over allocating the vacant allotments.	WEJ
382	Review of Annual Rents The allotment rents were increased last year. RESOLVED that rents are to stay the same for the current year as follows:- West to East Large plot £50 Half plot £27 Qtr Plot £14 North to South Large Plot £33 Half Plot £17 Pigeon Lofts £13	

383 Problems/Issues

Some allotments could be split into smaller more manageable plots which will help with the waiting list.

RESOLVED to ask Ken Wannop to have a look at plot 3a to see what can be done. There is a lot of concrete which prevents the plot to be used properly. It also needs sprayed to get rid of the weeds.

There is a problem with moles at the moment. Clerk to obtain a quote to resolve the issue.

There is a problem with people breaking in to the allotments which has happened three times now. The Police have been down but there is not a lot that can be done. Various suggestions were considered i) fencing around the whole site which would be costly ii) using a trail cam to see who goes down there in the dark iii) gates and a cattle grid across the entrance to make access more difficult iv) solar lighting security lighting near entrance to allotments and v) security marking of tools etc. Further investigations to be made to see what action can be taken to deter the thieves.

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