

# EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting: Allotment Committee Meeting

The Cabin, Euxton Allotment Site, off Copland Place, Euxton PR7 6QW

Thursday, 23 February at 7.00 pm

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held 25 August 2022
3. Public Participation
4. Bee research report for consideration and action
5. Site reports and considerations
  - North fence – discuss consideration to replace with a solid fence
  - Drainage on site – consider ways to improve
5. Plot reports and considerations
  - Inspection reports update
  - Change over of plots
  - Plot rentals
6. Allotment Society
  - Minutes from meetings
  - Reports back
  - Outstanding items
7. Any other items which need attention or research
8. Date for next meeting

### **Allotment Committee**

Neil Hall
Dez rigg
Katrina Reed
Eric Jones
Sam Hoyle

*D. Platt*

CLERK

Published: 13/02/23

# Allotment Honeybee Project

## Summary

This document describes the viability of having sustainable honeybees on the land at the rear of the Allotments (adjoining School Lane) following a meeting of the Allotment Committee 25/08/2022. This project would be subject to consultation with the Allotment holders and liaison with the experts at the Bee Centre, Chorley in relation to the set up and maintenance of the bees, the hive and training of personnel.

Bees help to pollinate a wide range of plants that are important to a healthy environment and a sustainable society which may be of benefit to the Allotment holders. The staff at the Bee Centre are happy to work with private landowners to create habitat and pollinator corridors which benefit both bees and other pollinators and enhance biodiversity whilst minimising any impact to the allotment community. No licence is required to keep bees in the UK.

Bee Centre Chorley Website: <https://thebeecentre.org/>

## Background

Initial enquiries were made with the Bee Centre which resulted in a site visit to the Allotments by Kath Cordingley on 14/10/2022. The proposed piece of land was examined and deemed to be suitable to host and maintain a hive(s). As the area is on a flood plain, a secure and dry base would be required to situate the hive as bees do not like damp or wet conditions.

Three options were suggested for ownership of the hive:-

### Option 1

The Allotment holders take ownership of the hive which becomes their own project to nurture and maintain. The Bee Centre staff can work with the Allotment holders to design and establish a pollinator-friendly habitat on the land and assist with any training or maintenance issues.

### Option 2

We invite an established bee keeper to keep their hive(s) on the land which they maintain and care for themselves. Details of suitable candidates could be obtained from the Bee Centre.

### Option 3

We purchase the hive and the Bee Centre can provide help, advice and site visits as required. They can assist with creating pollinator friendly habitats ranging from small wildlife gardens to larger planted areas depending on your requirements.. (Starter Kit price detailed below)..

Options 1 and 3 would require a volunteer to attend an 'Introduction to Bee Keeping' Course which provides the relevant training and qualifications. It is a one day workshop which costs £150.00 and courses run from April to September. It is recommended that you spend 20-30 hours over the year maintaining the hive.

A Starter Kit consisting of the equipment, hive and specially bred honeybees is priced at £895 (+VAT).

The Bee Centre use hives made from recycled or repurposed materials

Options 1 and 3 would necessitate the purchase of a beekeeping suit or jacket and gloves. The Bee Centre do not sell these items but they can be sourced from other suppliers at an approximate cost of £50 - £100.

If for any reason the project was not successful or there were any issues with the hive, staff from the Bee Centre would remove the bees from the site and re-home them.

## Recommendations and Next Steps

Consultation with the Allotment Holders to establish their views and preferences and address any concerns they may have.

If required, we could arrange for an expert from The Bee Centre to give a presentation to the Allotment Holders to provide further information and details of what the project will entail and answer any outstanding questions they may have.

Establish if any of the current Allotment Holders are already bee keepers and would be interested in being involved in the project.

Health and safety concerns will need to be addressed. If any of the Plot Holders suffer with allergies it would be advised that they carry an EpiPen when visiting the site.

Public Liability Insurance is in place for the Allotment site.

The proposed site for a hive is adjacent to Plots 30 – 36 (see map at Appendix 1). The Bee Centre would recommend that a net or mesh covering be erected at the rear of these plots to prevent the bees flying directly across them when leaving the hive, therefore reducing the risk of any interaction with Plot Holders.

Consultation with the occupants of neighbouring properties to inform them of the proposed project and address any questions or concerns.

I would recommend a further site visit from the staff at the Bee Centre once consultations have been completed and a follow up report will be prepared for the Allotment Committee for their review and decision.

Lorraine Hardman  
**Deputy Clerk**

Appendix 1 – Map





## Estimate

Our ref.	IPJ-RM-JB-010223
Date	01.02.23
Client	<a href="mailto:eric.jones@euxtoncouncil.org.uk">eric.jones@euxtoncouncil.org.uk</a>
Contact	

Client Euxton Parish Council

Site

Site Address Euxton Allotments

Job Description Fencing Works

ITEM	Description	QTY	UNIT	RATE	TOTAL
	Remove existing mesh panels. Rail and Board existing posts with 1.8m Feather Edge x 19.5m. Re-fix 2no. Mesh panels to opposite side of fence for security.	1.00	job	£825.90	£825.90

Contract Total £825.90

V A T 20% £165.18

Total Inc. VAT £991.08

Quote valid for 7 days from above date shown

### 6. Plot reports and considerations

- Inspection reports update
- Change over of plots
- Plot rentals

The Allotment Officer is carrying out inspections and keeping a close eye on a few plots which are not cultivated enough.

The Deputy Clerk has been training on the software database and will be taking the reins on the allotment site and management.

A few plots recently have changed over (3). One new tenant has worked extremely hard in a short space of time to get from a virgin site to this (pic right). Another tenant is waiting for their plot to be vacated before the end of March 2023 to star.

#### **Plot rentals**

An email was sent to all tenants informing of the plot rental increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 (as per the committees decisions).

Full plot rental was £80 for the year and the highest of the “RPI and CPI as at 1st September each year” as per the policy, was used @12.4%.

The allotment rental for the year 1st April 2023 to 31 March 2024 will be £89.92 (£44.96 for the half sized plots).



# ALLOTMENT SOCIETY MINUTES

Date – 04/12/2022

## **Attending**

Christina Parnell – plot 20

Melanie Bretherton plot 26

Michelle Robinson plot 7

Chris Winster plot 28

Donna Winster ""

Mark Townsend plot 21

Trevor Young plot 6

Liz Baumber plot 27

## **Apologies**

David Smith plot 14

Richard Bounds plot 3

**1 – Cabin** – Key holders now have keys. Suggested that for anyone to use cabin they contact Chris Winster on plot 28 or Michelle Robinson on plot 7 or via FB message.

Need to arrange a day to 'sell' equipment currently in container. Money going to allotment society.

Eric suggested applying for a grant from Euxton Parish Council via Debra Platt.

Suggested money for bulk buy of seeds, equipment for communal use, chippings/ bark delivery. Trevor will write to Debra on this.

**2 – Vacant / untidy plots.** Need to speak to Andy for update on the 2 vacant plots. Eviction is a lengthy process so it was suggested there be a probation period for new plot holders.

Do we need a reminder of allotment rules? Eg sowing of grass seed, unruly children, respecting other plots.

**3- Drainage** - flooding of plots. Eric said they spent a lot of money on drainage initially but it doesn't run through all plots. We can't drain into the main sewer which services new homes. There is some money left for this so we could establish where extra drainage could be placed.

Smell from sewer grid next to plot 26. Can it be sealed off better? Christina to contact Debra so she can ask Belway.

**4- Security** Trevor suggested gate lock combination is changed in April ( when rent is due)

Fees go up in line with inflation.

**5- Safety** Nearest defibrillator @ Community Centre (next to Papa Luigis) and Euxton library.

**6 – Bays** Bays are getting full and some items are getting mixed.

Suggested we encourage plot holders to take their compostable stuff home or compost on plot.

It costs about £300 to empty a bay.

Suggested we request money for fronts on the bays to allow compost to thrive.

**7- Events** –

**Seed swap date Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2023 in cabin.** Could this also be a good date for container sale?

Food bank donations – Could borrow Euxton Parish Council gazebo for food donations. Would above date be good for this also?

**Chorley in Bloom** – Judging in July. Allotments should enter as 'neighbourhood category'. Euxton Parish Council will enter allotments for judging.

**Chorley Flower Show-** If individuals enter items they get a free ticket for the show. End of July date.

**Social gathering** – BBQ events would need to be on hardstanding with one BBQ, not individual plots. Late Spring date **TBA**.

AOB – **Water is turned off and drained Dec to March due to cold** ( hopefully Andy managed to do this before the cold snap!?)

Next meeting – Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023





**For Admin Only**

Group:  
Entry:  
Key Contact:  
Area:  
Co-ordinator:  
Paid:  
Status:

**RHS It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) Entry Form 2023**

**Please note:**

A unique contact is required for each group that enters.

**Name of Entry**

*This is the name that will appear on any award/certificate you may receive.*

**Post Code of Entry (for location of the site) .....**

**Contact Name... Position.....**

**Address.....**

**Post Code..... Tel No..... Mobile .....**

**E-mail .....**

**RHS IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD AWARDS**

Please indicate the category in which you wish to be assessed

Category	Charge	Please Tick
Neighbourhood	No Fee	
Hospice / Residential Home	No Fee	
Railway Station	No Fee	

Please return (preferable by e-mail) by **31st March 2023** to:

Regional Organiser,  
Britain in Bloom North West  
Rural Business Centre, Myerscough College,  
Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire PR3 0RY

**Tel:** 01995 642101

**E-mail:** [info@northwestinbloom.com](mailto:info@northwestinbloom.com)

**Privacy Notice**

*I am aware that for the purposes of Britain in Bloom and IYN my data will be shared with the RHS and stored and processed in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation. For more detail see our website: [www.northwestinbloom.com](http://www.northwestinbloom.com)*