



# EUXTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting: Allotment Committee Meeting

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

Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.00 pm

## AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of meeting held 23rd February 2023
3. Public Participation
4. Bee project update
5. Site reports and considerations
  - Footpaths – top dressing - estimates for 2024
  - Drainage on site – investigation of water source and improvement options.
6. Plot reports and considerations
  - Inspection reports update
  - Changeover of plots
  - Plot rentals and non-payment rules
7. Allotment Society
  - Minutes from meetings
  - Reports back
  - Outstanding items
8. Any other items which need attention or research
9. Set Budget
10. Set date for next meeting

### Allotment Committee

Eric Jones

Katrina Reed

Dez Rigg

Sam Hoyle

*L Hardman*

**DEPUTY CLERK**

**Published: 13/02/23**

MINUTES of ALLOTMENT COMMITTEE Meeting of 23 February 2023 at 7.00pm at Euxton Allotment Site Office

Councillors present: Cllr E Jones (Chair)  
Cllr N Hall (Vice Chair)  
Cllr K Reed  
Cllr D Rigg

Officers present: D Platt L Hardman

Members of the public 3

1. Apologies Councillor S Hoyle.
2. Minutes of the meeting held 25 August 2022.

**Resolved:** Minutes of the Allotment Committee held on 25 August 2022 were agreed to be an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Public participation

Three Plot Holders Present. The issue of unstable fencing between Plots 7 and 8 was raised. See Point 7 Any Other Items for Resolution details.

4. Bee Project

Members discussed the proposed location for a hive and any associated costs, harvesting of the honey and the possibility of planting wildflowers in the location, also access issues for contractors visiting the site. An email will be sent to all Plot Holders with a copy of the Bee Project document to establish the amount of interest in the project before proceeding further.

5. Site Reports and Considerations

North Fence

A quote has been obtained from a fencing contractor to erect a wooden fence in front of the existing mesh one. A date is to be confirmed for him to come onto the site and carry out the work which should take one day. Request from the Clerk that any mesh fence panels that are removed be retained on site as spares.

Drainage A contractor has been spoken to in relation to the issue with two of the land drains being underwater and excess water problems. Suggested he comes onto site with a small machine to dig the ditch down approximately a further 18 inches to try and resolve the issue. Also discussed issues with flooding from the car park and the area of the path alongside Plots 16 to 22.

Contractor to take a look at these areas whilst on site. Allotment Society Members to discuss if they are prepared to carry out some digging for drainage around the affected areas if they do not wish to have the machinery on their plots.

5. Plot Reports and Considerations

Inspection Reports Update –

The Allotment Officer is to carry out an inspection on a Plot which is causing concern and if required a Warning Letter will be issued.

Change Over of Plots –

There is currently one plot available with notice given on a second plot which will be available from 01/04/23, there are 21 people on the waiting list at this time.

Plot Rentals – The new Rental Fees of £89.92 and £44.96 (half plot) come into effect from 01/04/23

6. Allotment Society

Previous Minutes

Minutes from meeting dated 04/12/2022 received.

Reports Back

Security issues; the code on the padlock is to be changed in April when the rents are due and to be circulated to all Plot Holders by email.

The seed swap event set for 22/01/23 did not go ahead.

Suggested a copy of Allotment Rules be kept either in the Portacabin or on the noticeboard outside.

Allotment Society to circulate Minutes from meetings to the members via the Deputy Clerk.

Outstanding Items

Issues with the sewer vent discussed and the possibility of securing it further however, it needs to be accessible if required. To be inspected by the Allotment Officer.

A decision was made to enter the Chorley In Bloom competition which is judged in July – Application submitted 27/02/23

The subject of having a defibrillator on site was discussed. At present the nearest ones are located at Euxton Library and the Community Centre. Initial enquiries will have to be made with Roland Homes prior to the matter being placed on the Agenda for the next All Purpose Meeting.

7. Any Other Items which need attention or research

Discussion regarding the rules for keeping chickens on plots. The regulations for Euxton Allotments do not allow this and there may be objections from other Plot Holders and local residents. Further enquiries to be made by the Clerk.

The issue of unstable fencing raised at Point 3 will be investigated by the Allotment Officer.

8. Next Meeting

No date fixed for the next meeting

## **Bee Project Update**

After consultation with Plot Holders requesting feedback on the project, only 8 responses were received with 6 positive and 2 negative replies.

Following the drainage work carried out to the ditch in the summer it was apparent that the proposed site for the hives would not be suitable as access was required for machinery and equipment. As this will be an ongoing issue and future access to the Allotment Site will be required the bee project will not be proceeding at this time. Any suggestions regarding alternative locations will be welcomed.

## **Site Reports and Considerations**

Footpaths – the top dressing of the footpaths on site are to be discussed with possible estimates for replacement to be obtained in 2024.

Drainage on site – Further repairs were carried out to the ditch in July to assist with the drainage issues. Discussions to be carried out re possible investigation of the water source and improvement options.

## **Plot Reports and Considerations**

Inspection Reports Update

Change Over of Plots

Plot Rentals

The Allotment Officer is carrying out inspections and monitoring any plots which are under cultivated.

A few plots have changed over and one plot is currently vacant awaiting a viewing. There are currently 24 people on the Waiting List.

Non-payment rules to be discussed.

Plot Rentals

An email has been sent to all tenants informing them of the plot rental increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 (as per the Committees decision).

Full plot rental was £89.92 for the year and the highest of the **'RPI and CPI as at 1<sup>st</sup> September each year'** was used @ 8.9% as per the policy.

The allotment rental for the year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31 March 2025 will be £97.92 for a full size plot and £48.96 for the half size plots.