

**MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND EVENTS COMMITTEE HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2019**

Present: K Shaw (Chair), Mrs B E Allen  
E Bell, Mrs J A Bell,  
Mrs G Bleasedale,  
Mrs K Brace, S P Colborn,  
S Cudlip, D Cummings,  
Mrs V Cummings, Mrs S Forster,  
G N Hepworth, Mrs L Kennedy,  
D McKenna, Mrs S Pratt,  
B Taylor, R Whitehead  
Miss L Willis.

Apologies: R Arthur, Ms R M Gratton,  
T Shepherd.

Officers: Mrs D Rickaby (Town Clerk),  
P Fletcher (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Mrs J Knight (Finance Officer)  
Miss A Rountree (Minute Taker)

*Prior to commencement of the meeting the Chair advised members of this Committee and members of the public that in line with the amendment to 'the public bodies (admission to meetings) act 1960', which came into force in August, 2014, parts of this meeting may be recorded by photographic, video and audio means.*

**PE26/19      DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded prior to the start of the meeting of the need to disclose any interests, prejudicial or personal, in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

**PE27/19      MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>nd</sup> APRIL, 2019**

RECOMMENDED the Minutes of this meeting, a copy of which had been previously printed and circulated to each Member, be approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

**PE28/19      PARKS AND EVENTS SERVICES**

The Committee considered the Deputy Town Clerk's report which contained the following items:

**1.0 RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members discussed the resolution to exclude the press and public request. Some Members felt that the meeting should be conducted in view of the general public for transparency. Some Members disagreed with this opinion and felt that the meeting should be conducted in private due to some of the information is sensitive, the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk advised the same, however, Councillor put forward the motion for a named vote and it was seconded and therefore a vote took place.

Proposed and seconded to hold a vote for the press and public not to be excluded:

For: Councillors D McKenna, Mrs S Forster, R Whitehead, S Cudlip, Mrs L Kennedy, E Bell, Mrs J A Bell, K Shaw. (8)

Against: Councillors B Taylor, Mrs G Bleasdale, S P Colborn, Mrs K Brace, Mrs B E Allen, Miss L Willis, Mrs S Pratt, G N Hepworth. (8)

Abstained: Councillors D Cummings, Mrs V Cummings (2)

The Chair used their casting vote for the press and public not to be excluded and the press and public therefore remained in the room.

**2.0 ALLOTMENT ISSUES**

**2.1 HORSES, PIGEONS, CHICKENS, SHEEP, GOATS AND OTHER LIVESTOCK.**

After much discussion it was agreed to include in the new Allotment Agreements that only people with existing plots where horses, sheep, goats, cattle, pigeons and chickens but not cockerels can continue to keep these animals but no new persons or plots will be allowed to keep the above named animals. This is subject to the allotment associations ensuring that the owners of the animals have insurance and PLI, passports, holding numbers, movement details, adequate welfare arrangements. The associations will provide this information including the allotment holders contact details and a plan of the site with what is contained on each plot and this to be given to the council on a an annual basis. Any reoccurring nuisances from a particular plot or animal/s would need to be dealt with swiftly by the allotment association with repeat offenders being evicted. If the association do not resolve a re-occurring nuisance issue they would be in breach of the agreement and the allotments could be taken back into the management of the council

RECOMMENDED that:

- (i) The new allotment agreements will state that only people on existing plots where horses, sheep, goat, cattle, pigeons and chickens but not cockerels can continue to keep said animals but no new persons or plots will be allowed to keep animals. This would be without any grandfather rights or passing the plot down to family members. This is subject to the allotment associations ensuring that the owners of the animals have insurance and PLI, passports, holding numbers, movement details and adequate welfare arrangements. The associations will provide this information including the allotment holders contact details and a plan of the site with what is contained on it on an annual basis to the council.

Any reoccurring nuisances from a particular plot or animal would need to be dealt with swiftly by the allotment association with repeat offenders being evicted. If the association do not resolve a nuisance issue they would be in breach of the agreement and the allotments could be taken back into the management of the council.

## 2.2

### **DOGS**

Further discussions took place regarding the keeping of dogs on allotments and it was agreed that no new persons or allotment plots are to be allowed to keep dogs but the existing plots and allotment tenants that have dogs can continue to do so until they give up their plots. This would be without any grandfather rights or passing the plot down to family members. Any reoccurring nuisances from a particular plot or animal would need to be dealt with swiftly by the allotment association with repeat offenders being evicted. If the association do not resolve a nuisance issue they would be in breach of the agreement and the allotments could be taken back into the management of the council. This is subject to the allotment association providing the allotment holders contact details and a plan of the site with what is contained on it on an annual basis to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that:

No new persons or allotment plots to be allowed to keep dogs but the existing plots and allotment tenants that do have dogs can continue to do so until they give up their plots. This would be without any grandfather rights or passing the plot down to family. Any reoccurring nuisances from a particular plot or dog would need to be dealt with swiftly by the allotment association with repeat offenders being evicted. If the association do not resolve a nuisance issue they would be in breach of the agreement and the allotments could be taken back into the management of the council.

This is subject to the allotment association providing the allotment holders contact details, dog chip information and a plan of the site with what is contained on it on an annual basis to the council.

**2.3**                    **COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES**

Commercial activities on allotment plots was discussed at length and it was agreed that no new persons or plots would be allowed to carry out commercial activities but existing persons and plots would be allowed to continue for a maximum of 3 years while they find alternative sites. This would be without any grandfather rights or passing the plot down to family. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed it was only the selling of surplus fruit and vegetables that was allowed in a commercial capacity on allotment sites. Councillors asked that the Deputy Town Clerk meet with the allotment associations to confirm this and draw up a list of commercial activities. This is subject to the allotment association providing the allotment holders contact details and a plan of the site with what is contained on it on an annual basis to the council.

RECOMMENDED that:

No new persons or plots would be allowed to carry out commercial activities but existing persons and plots would be allowed to continue for a maximum of 3 years while they find alternative sites. This would be without any grandfather rights or passing the plot down to family. The Deputy Town Clerk will meet with the allotment associations to confirm a list of what are defined as commercial activities. This is subject to the allotment association providing the allotment holders contact details and a plan of the site with what is contained on it on an annual basis to the council.

**2.4**                    **FUTURE ACTION**

RECOMMENDED that:

The Associations provide an annual review of all information required to Council Officers such as DEFRA registrations, holding numbers, welfare, security, insurances, contact details and plans of sites with what is on them.

RECOMMENDED that:

Officers to check annually that no new plots or persons are keeping animals, dogs or carrying out commercial activities and that those that are giving up plots do so and no new animals, dogs or commercial activities replace them and that all commercial activities are stopped in three years' time.

**LENGTH OF AGREEMENT**

The length of the agreements was discussed and agreed that it should be 5 years and that this can be extended if needs be similar to what happened with Hall Street allotments to ensure they can obtain external funding. If at any time the association breached the agreements and stipulations detailed above then the council has the right to cease the agreement and take over management of the site.

RECOMMENDED that:

The allotment agreements run for a period of 5 years with the possibility to extend them further. If the associations breach the agreements by not honouring the stipulations detailed above then the Council has the right to cease the agreement and take over management of the site.