

**Leek Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 10.30am**

**Chairman:** Cllr. Barry Birch

**Present:** Cllr. Dee Young (Vice Chair), Ben Benefer, Mavis Weaver, Gaynor Tatton and John Hodgkinson

Minutes: Denise Wheat (Town Clerk)

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman Cllr Barry Birch opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Sue Coleman and Victoria Johnson (Admin assistant)
3. **The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023** were received as a correct record. Thanks were given to Victoria for the minutes.
4. **Matters Arising:**
  - Barry had attended the Climate Committee meeting and had broached the idea of plantin floral displays at the town entrances.
  - Ben asked for the tenancy agreement to be on the September meeting Agenda for scrutiny to focus on this and how it could be amended to improve the Allotments.
  - Denise to email the Arial Photographer to see if this can be done.
5. **Allotment Reports**

**Cheadle Road**

- Children have been reported entering the Allotment site from Ballington Wood. Clerk will check for Public Rights of Way.
- A fencing quotation is in progress for any areas that need fencing.
- The Committee agreed for new signage to state “Allotment Holders Only”
- The Lengthsman to check again for Himalayan Balsam as more has sprung up in the stream.
- John will get a quotation for a man to clear the debris on the car park with a digger.

**Beggars Lane**

- The Lengthsman is getting a quotation to tarmac the drive as it is deteriorating due to the wet weather.
- The Clerk has also visited the site with a fencing contractor to look at the border with the yard at Nab Hill Tunnel and Daz Holland’s Yard.

**Peggs Field**

- Children have been caught turning taps on in Peggs Field which is wasting water.
- The gates into the site were discussed and whether access could be limited with locks. No decision was made and the Committee will check if it is a school holiday time issue.

**Crescent 1 & 2**

- Barry has had success in negotiating to get the abandoned car moved from Cres. 1 Car Park. Thanks to Barry for his persistence with this issue. The Car park has now been extended and fresh hard core put down.
- The Lengthsman was thanked for doing a brilliant job of the car park and fence.

### **Badnall Street**

- Untidy Plots 1,2 and 10 need warnings.

### **Parrs Field**

- Untidy Plots 7 & 8 need warnings.

## **6. Leek Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association:**

- The coffee morning to raise funds for the Annual Show raised £250.00. Thanks were given to Suzanne Sheldon for organising this event.
- Twelve Schools entered the Schools Show on 8<sup>th</sup> July. The event clashed with Club Day which affected the attendance. The Deputy Mayor Cllr. Barry Birch was thanked for attending.
- The judging has now occurred for the Annual Allotments Competition. It was noted that the standard of the overall sites is not improving. More attention needs to be given to untidy plots.
- The Annual Flower and Vegetable Show is on the 19<sup>th</sup> August. The Clerk will order the winners certificates. Barry, Dee & the Clerk will do a brief inspection of the winners and the untidy plots which have been identified, including whether plots can be accessed by the Committee. The Clerk to check what keys the Town Council hold.
- The Association have asked the Town Council if another category can be added to the Prize winners. It will be a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement “Best Plot of Culinary and Exhibition Vegetables” The Committee agreed this new category to be added.
- Prizes for the standard categories were then discussed. The Clerk explained the new software rounds up and we can’t offer 50p so Prizes are now:  
1<sup>st</sup> Full Plot £20 (50%) Half Plot £10 (50%)  
2<sup>nd</sup> Full Plot £10 Half Plot £6  
3<sup>rd</sup> Full Plot £6 Half Plot £3

It was resolved to stay at the old prize levels and issue cheques.

*(Following the meeting the Clerk realised it is not in the Councils Power to give cash prizes. So the prizes will need to stay as 2024 Allotment fee discounts).*

## **7. Tenancy/Waiting List Report:** There are now over 50 people on the waiting list.

## **8. Any Other Business:**

Deposits to hold a tenancy were discussed and it was decided to add this item to the next Agenda for discussion

The Clerk had to leave the meeting to go on site with a contractor to the Nicholson Memorial.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10.30am

Meeting ended at 12.05am