

Leek Town Council
Minutes of the Allotment Committee Meeting held Tuesday 26th September 2023 at 10.30am

Chairman: Cllr. Barry Birch

Present: Cllr. Dee Young (Vice Chair), Ben Benefer, Gaynor Tatton, Denise Wheat (Town Clerk)
Minutes: Victoria Johnson (Admin Assistant)

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman Cllr. Barry Birch opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** John Hodgkinson, Mavis Weaver and Sue Coleman.
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 24th July 2023 were received as a correct record.
 - Clarification was requested regarding the arial photographer. It was confirmed that there had been no contact from him so was agreed not to pursue this with him anymore.
 - Digital mapping enquiries had been made to Highways but no response as yet. The Chairman will speak with Cllr. Charlotte Atkins to clarify who we should speak to on this.
4. **Matters Arising:** No matters raised.

5. Allotment Reports

Cheadle Road

- Himalayan Balsam has been reported by the bridge and brook.
- CH 01 now has a shed next to the 'summer house'. Whilst the shed conforms to the regulatory size, both structures leave little space for cultivation.
- CH 68 is untidy and the tenant has requested help removing heavy rubbish.
- Members of the Allotment Committee will visit Cheadle Road this week to inspect CH 01 and CH 68.
- A quote of £1100 has been received regarding the car park so will need to go to full Council for approval.
- CH 04 is being relinquished at the start of October.

Beggars Lane

- BL 36 has requested a shed. The power company carried out a safety check.
- A quote of £1365 (exc VAT) has been received to excavate loose potholes and lay tarmac to make it good. This will need to go to full Council for approval.
- Loose chipping could not be considered as the area is on a slope.
- Cars will not be allowed on the site for a few days after the work is complete.
- Allotment holders are to be sent a letter requesting reduced speed in cars as this can cause potholes.

Peggs Field

- PCSO's have patrolled but have not received any reports of vandalism.
- Taps being left on has stopped and a member of the Allotment Committee is asking people on this plot to close the gate.
- We now have 10 'ALLOTMENT HOLDERS ONLY' signs.
- Dog fouling is increasingly a problem. Lockable metal bins with the LTC logo cost £400.
- PF 33 is untidy. A Warning Letter is to be sent to the tenant.

Crescent 1 & 2

- A resident had requested if they could purchase a piece of LTC land. This cannot happen due to a covenant. The resident was offered a peppercorn rent to rent the land which they refused. They will build a wall to stop the weeds.
- Discussion took place about the pros and cons of taking a deposit when renting an allotment to a new tenant. The Chairman will speak to Newcastle-Under-Lyme about their procedures.
- Crescent 1 Plot 2 is untidy. The original tenant died and the family passed it on to his grandson but no work has been done. It was agreed to send a Warning Notice.

Badnall Street

- Plot 10 has been vacated and will be offered to next on the waiting list.

Parrs Field

- Nothing to report.

6. Leek Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association:

- Leek Town Council were thanked for the support they gave at the Annual Show.
- There were 285 exhibits which was slightly down on last year.
- A Climate Action Grant of £500 has been received to create a climate friendly border to attract bees. This will be done in conjunction with All Saints school and will expand to include additional schools.
- Moorlands Climate Action are happy to manage the land at Newton House.
- Consideration is being given to bulk buying compost.

7. Tenancy/Waiting List Report:

- There are currently 67 people on the waiting list

8. Review of the Tenancy Agreement:

The following amendments were agreed:

- 2a) specify 'by the 31st January'
- 2b) rephrase this to clarify that plots are to be used for gardening and not for profit/commercial use
- 2c) remove 'where possible' and specify 'to use only organic practices' and 'not to use weedkiller bought over the counter without prior permission'
- 2m) add 'or equipment or material from other allotments'
- emphasise 'not in periods of high demand'

The following additions were agreed:

- Re: play equipment – not to place any without permission of the Council
- Tenancy can only be taken up/continued upon signing and returning a copy of the Tenancy Agreement to the office. Failure to do so will result in termination of tenancy.
- Anti-social behaviour and/or theft will result in instant termination of tenancy.

9. Any other Business: Nothing to report

The meeting finished at 12.10pm

10. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 31st October at 10.00am