

Leek Town Council
Minutes of the Green Spaces and Allotments Committee Meeting
held Tuesday 31st October 2023 at 10.00am

Chairman: Cllr. Barry Birch

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

Minutes: Victoria Johnson (Admin Assistant)

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman Cllr. Barry Birch opened the meeting and confirmed that the new name for the Committee is Green Spaces and Allotments. This raised the following issues:

- It needs to be confirmed who is responsible for the Green Spaces aspect of the Committee and what impact this will have on the membership of the Committee.
- Will this make meetings last longer? If so, perhaps the meetings should be split to address Green Spaces matters and Allotments matters separately.
- Allotment finances will need to be kept separate from Green Spaces finances.
- There will be implications for the Terms of Reference for the Committee.
- The onus will be on the Chairman and Vice Chairman to collaborate with the Climate Action Committee.

2. **Apologies:** Denise Wheat

3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 26th October 2023 were received as a correct record.

4. **Matters Arising:** No matters raised.

5. **Allotment Reports**

Cheadle Road

- The Chair has visited CH 01 several times but has been unable to see the tenants there. He will arrange a meeting with them via the contact details on Scribe. He will inform them that the summer house structure is oversized and ask what they intend to do with the rest of the land as it should be 75% cultivated.
- The soil from the work being done on the car park is to be put on the back of plot CH 68.
- The £1100 quote has been approved at full Council.
- It was agreed that the tenant on CH 08 cannot have the allotment next to them as tenants are not allowed 2 plots.
- It was agreed that Moorlands Climate Action are to be asked if they would like to work the overgrown and derelict plots.

Beggars Lane

- The £1365 quote has been approved at full Council.
- A temporary combination lock is to be put on the gate when the work on the potholes is being carried out. No tenants are to be given the combination code.
- The speed signs are to be checked to make sure that they are not obscured by overgrown trees etc.
- It was agreed that BL 53 can be split into two half plots.
- It was agreed that pigeons can not be kept on allotments.

Peggs Field

- There have been no further reports of vandalism and the taps have now

been turned off for winter.

- The dog foul bins have been ordered and will be placed by the landfill area.
- It was agreed that there is no advantage to installing a gate at the top.
- The tenant on PF 16 does not have permission to remove the apple tree on her plot as it is a healthy and established fruit tree.
- The English Apple Tree specialist is to be invited to visit the allotments to inform his nationwide survey.
- The Chairman is to inspect the self-seeded oak tree on PF 13 as it is so large that there is no space to install a camera.
- The path is very slippery at the bottom. The Lengthsman to be asked if gravel or bark can be put down there.
- The Clerk is to check if we have insurance cover for any accidents on communal areas on allotment sites.

Crescent 1 & 2

- The Lengthsman has tidied the LTC land and taken the fence down to enable the resident to build a wall.
- The tenants suspected of sub-letting their plot are to be contacted and asked if they are actually working on their plot.

Badnall Street

- Some of the plots have locks on them which prevents access when inspections or judging for competitions are taking place. The Tenancy Agreement is to have the wording 'where allotment holders have a locked gate they must provide a key/combination code to LTC' added.
- With regard to the theft from BA 02 it was agreed that the Council is not to blame and that we are not to offer any free rent.

Parrs Field

- Nothing to report.

6. Leek Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association:

- The pumpkin marrow competition has been judged by Dave Lownds.
- The grant money has been received and has been spent on materials for the bee friendly border.
- DBS checks have been carried out so that work can be done in schools.

7. Tenancy/Waiting List Report:

- There are currently 73 people on the waiting list.
- The Admin Assistant is to provide an amended draft Tenancy Agreement for the next meeting.

8. Any other Business: No matters raised.

9. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 28th November at 10.30am

The meeting finished at 11.45am