

Leek Town Council
Minutes of the Green Spaces and Allotments Committee Meeting
held Tuesday 28th November 2023 at 10.30am

Chairman: Cllr. Barry Birch

Present: Cllr. Dee Young (Vice Chair), Cllr. Sue Webster, Ben Benefer, Mavis Weaver

Minutes: Victoria Johnson (Admin Assistant)

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman Cllr. Barry Birch opened the meeting.
2. **Apologies:** Denise Wheat, Gaynor Tatton, John Hodgkinson
3. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 31st October 2023 were received as a correct record.
4. **Matters Arising:** No matters raised.
5. **Revised Tenancy Agreement for Approval:** The Committee approved the amendments made to the current Tenancy Agreement. It was agreed that the additional wording had tightened up the agreement, and the Committee will wait for the solicitor's input and advice.
6. **Waiting List Report:** There are currently 73 people on the Waiting List.
7. **Plots being Relinquished:** There are currently 9 vacant plots.
8. **Notices to Quit:**
 - The Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee along with the Town Clerk and Lengthsman will be carrying out inspections later this week. Warning Notices and Notices to Quit will be issued.
 - When inspections are taking place the Committee asked for plots with barbed wire on them to be noted.
9. **Allotment Reports:**

Cheadle Road

- The Clerk is waiting for a date to be confirmed for the work to be done.
- Rubbish/dead leaves etc is still being dumped at the top of the car park. The Clerk will contact SMDC to enquire if they are responsible for doing this.
- The Lengthsman is to be asked if the water has been turned off on all allotment sites.
- The trailer has now been removed from the site.
- The tenant on CH 01 has been told that the structure installed is oversized and that no more sheds are to be erected. The plot is to be monitored to ensure that the correct cultivation is taking place.

Beggars Lane

- The Allotment Association are happy with the Allotment Committee's decision to not allow pigeons to be kept on allotment plots.

Peggs Field

- Both the top and bottom of the path need to be made safe. Non-slip covering was discussed.
- Any expense to be incurred by the trees by PF 13 will have to wait for the next financial year.

Crescent 1 & 2

- The allotments growing roses are to be noted when the inspections are taking place.

Badnall Street

- The confidential matter regarding theft on the allotment site is now in the hands of the LTC solicitor.
- The amendments made to the Tenancy Agreement should prevent this situation arising in the future.

Parrs Field

- Nothing to report.

10. Leek Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association:

- The AGM was held on 8th November 2023.
- The Chairman's Report stated that it had been a good year and that activities had broadened including liaison with schools.
- The finances are in a good position, the 2 evening talks had made a small profit as had the coffee mornings and thanks was given to all involved.
- Next year focus needs to be given to how funds should be allocated and how to increase membership.
- The Annual Show was successful as were the School Show and the Let's Get Growing evening. Thanks was given to the judge of the Best Kept Allotments competition and the Scarecrow competition.
- The good relationship between LTC and the Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association was highlighted.
- Improvements at both Cheadle Road and Beggars Lane were noted and it is hoped that there will be more inspection. The Allotment Association will monitor all the sites and report to the Clerk.
- The Treasurer's Report was given – membership subscriptions are going to be reviewed, thought is being given to whether automatic membership can be collected with the annual rent, the grant received is being used for raised beds and a bee friendly border, consideration is being given to joining the National Allotment Association.
- The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Events Co-ordinators were duly elected.
- The dates for the Associations meetings over the next 12 months were set, the next one being January 18th at 7.30pm in The Fountain.

11. Request for a Q&A Event:

- The meeting is to be a joint meeting organised by both Leek Town Council Allotment Committee and the Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association.
- The Chairman of the Allotment Holders and Gardeners Association will arrange for a guest speaker for the Q&A evening.
- The Admin Assistant will advertise the event in the New Year.
- The event will take place at The Priory on Wednesday 28th February at 7pm.

12. Green Spaces: Prince Street, Birches Gardens and Ball Haye recreation ground and football pitch and Brough Park were identified as Green Spaces with issues to be discussed at future meetings.

13. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30th January at 10.30am

This meeting finished at 12 noon