



Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council

ALLOTMENTS AND LAND SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES Monday 24th October 2022

Present: Cllrs J Bayford, D Saunders, M Saunders
Senior Administrative Officer: Julie Belsey
Allotment Tenants: 7 allotment tenants

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE CIVIC YEAR 2022/23

RESOLVED:

- i) Cllr D Saunders would be Chairman for the forthcoming civic year
- ii) Cllr M Saunders would be Vice Chairman for the forthcoming civic year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr R K Binks.

3. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman reminded those present of the right to record, film or broadcast any meetings of the Council, committees and subcommittees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members received and considered the draft document.

RESOLVED: that the Terms of Reference are presented to COUNCIL for APPROVAL at the next meeting.

6. MINUTES

RESOLVED to RECEIVE and APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th March 2022. Proposed Cllr J Bayford, seconded Cllr M Saunders, agreed.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE IN THE AGENDA

There were no matters arising.

8. ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' OPEN MEETING

Allotment holders asked about some plots that seemed overgrown. The Senior Administrative Officer gave updates on these plots and will also carry out another walk around and contact any plot holders whose site looks un-tended.

The Committee were asked if we could prevent the use of carpet as a weed membrane as fibres break off, especially on synthetic carpets, and this gets distributed around the allotments and into the soil. The Senior Administrative Officer will contact all allotment tenants and ask that carpets are no longer used.

Tenants enquired if there was a possibility of having the water turned on earlier should we have a dry spring. Tenants were informed that this would not be a problem, however, it would mean an increase in their water charge in the following year.

9. NORMAN ROAD AND NASH GARDENS/PROSPECT ROAD ALLOTMENTS

- i) The inspection details of the Allotments that took place in May and October 2022 were RECEIVED and NOTED.

- ii)
 - a) Members received an update report from the Senior Administrative Officer. Members confirmed that BSTPTC would still continue to arrange for the removal of non-recyclable waste each year. The last waste removal took place in April.
 - b) Members confirmed that the waiting list for both allotment sites will be closed. This will be reviewed in October 2023. People currently on the waiting list will be contacted to see if they still wish to remain.
 - c) Cllr D Saunders will speak to the portfolio holder at Thanet District Council for Open Spaces regarding the removal of ivy and brambles from the base of the trees surrounding the allotments at Norman Road, which was originally requested in December 2021.

Allotment tenants left the meeting.

10. CULMER'S AMENITY LAND

- i) The inspection details of Culmer's land which took place in May and October 2022 were RECEIVED and NOTED.
- ii) Members received an update report from the Senior Administrative Officer. It was agreed that the two benches that had been noted as requiring repair, would either be repaired by the Operations Officer, or by the Community Payback Team under the supervision of the Operations Officer. It was also noted that the lease for Culmer's Land states that all repairs and maintenance of benches should be undertaken by BSTPTC.

11. MOCKETT'S WOOD

- i) The inspection details of Mockett's Wood which took place in October 2022 was RECEIVED and NOTED.
- ii)
 - a) Members received an update report from the Senior Administrative Officer. The Town Council are still awaiting delivery of the bins for Mockett's Wood. The concrete bases have been put in place ready for their delivery.
 - b) The Friend's of Mockett's Wood recently held a successful event to encourage new volunteers and also have 4 Dane Court School Students undertaking their Duke of Edinburgh's award volunteering with them.

12. PIERREMONT PARK GROUNDS

- i) Members received the report from the Senior Administrative Officer. Cllr D Saunders informed the committee that he had been happy with the works undertaken to date. It was also noted that the planters were now planted up with the autumn/winter planting.
- ii) Members considered the proposal to open up the natural areas around the entrances to Pierremont Hall as a prevention of anti-social behaviour, as per the Senior Administrative Officer's Report:

"The Facilities Manager has put forward a proposal to open up the wooded/natural areas on the entrances to Pierremont Hall. These areas currently provide ideal hiding places for anti-social behaviour. Officers have also witnessed people defecating within the undergrowth.

If these areas were opened up, with the bushes and fences removed, and replaced with perhaps wild meadow flowers, or turf, it would automatically remove hiding areas and make the spaces easy to view from most points when walking through, which would hopefully deter the current unsavoury behaviour that is taking place."

RESOLVED: The following recommendation to be considered by COUNCIL: The Members propose to seriously consider the removal of fences and any other supported hedges, and to thin out overgrowth behind as necessary.

13. ARBORICULTURE CONDITION REPORTS

The Arboriculture Reports from the tree inspections undertaken on 14th October 2022 were RECEIVED. Requirements for works were NOTED with the Senior Administrative Officer making arrangements for the works to be undertaken as required.

14. ALLOTMENT AND LAND BUDGET 2023/24

It was AGREED that the winter and summer planting for the planters in the Pierremont Hall Grounds would come out of the Pierremont Planting Budget.

Members considered the financial impact of the recommendations made during this meeting and reviewed budget allocations for the year 2023-24.

RESOLVED: that the following plan of work and budget be recommended for consideration to the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE.

Budget Area	2023/2024 (excluding VAT)
Allotments – both sites general maintenance	£2,350.00
Culmers Amenity Land – Includes rent, grounds maintenance contract and sundry tree works	£10,000.00
Mockett’s Wood – includes volunteer’s grant which has been brought in-house, emergency tree works, additional tree maintenance on boundary with Church Court Grove and any additional contractor works due to reduction in volunteers.	£5,500.00
Tree Survey and Works – for the annual Tree Safety Inspections at Mockett’s Wood, Pierremont Hall, Culmer’s Amenity Land and Norman Road Allotments.	£3,400.00
Grounds Maintenance Sundries – for any additional expenses relating to maintenance of the grounds around Pierremont Hall and Culmer’s Amenity Land.	£2,500.00
Pierremont Planting – for any additional planting required at Pierremont Hall.	£1,200.00
Pierremont Grounds Maintenance – for grounds maintenance Contract	£10,000.00

15. FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is 27th March 2023 at 7pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.00pm
Senior Administrative Officer