

CANEWDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the online Allotments Committee meeting held on Wednesday 16th June 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present:	<u>Chairman:</u>	Cllr. L. Van Houten
	<u>Members:</u>	Cllr. J. Craven
	<u>Visiting members:</u>	Cllr. M. Halford
	<u>Officers:</u>	Kelly Holland, Parish Clerk
	<u>Members of the public:</u>	None

AL21/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Sohail and Mr S. Joslin.

RECOMMENDED that the apologies be approved.

AL21/14 Minutes

RECOMMENDED that the minutes from the Committee meeting on 19th May 2021 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman after the meeting.

AL21/15 Declaration of interests and dispensations

None declared.

AL21/16 Public participation session

The Chairman permitted for the inclusion of comments from Cllr. M. Halford throughout the meeting.

AL21/17 Budgets

The Committee were informed of the budget provision for the allotments.

AL21/18 Vacant Plots

Following letters regarding non cultivation, three plots had been surrendered, two of which had been let. The remaining vacant plot was in the process of being let.

AL21/19 Stand pipes and hoses

This item would be deferred to the next meeting.

AL21/20 **Tenancy agreements**

This item would be deferred to the next meeting.

AL21/21 **Allotment security**

There had been some thefts reported overnight in the 3rd/4th June. The Council's strimmer had been stolen from the Horticultural Society shed and some tenants had had equipment stolen. Tenants had been encouraged to report the thefts directly to the Police. Members were advised that other local allotment sites had also been targeted. There was a general discussion regarding security including solar lighting. It was suggested that the vacant tenant position on the Committee be filled as soon as possible to ensure that tenants are heard. It was suggested that the code to the gate be changed regularly in an effort to deter this kind of behaviour.

The Clerk would advertise the committee vacancy with tenants and defer the item to the next agenda.

AL21/22 **Council machinery**

The Council owned a lawnmower and strimmer (this had been stolen) for use by allotment volunteers to cut the main paths on site. There were two volunteers who had carried this work out for many years and were covered on the Council's insurance as they used Council equipment. The Committee discussed whether to continue with volunteers or whether to appoint a contractor to look after the entire site. The lawnmower could be sold if no longer required with the proceeds donated to the allotment budget as appointing a contractor for the whole site would have a cost implication.

RECOMMENDED that the following items be presented to the Council for consideration:

- Increase the allotments grounds maintenance budget to cover the appointment of a contractor for all grounds maintenance
- Sell the Council lawnmower and donate the income to the allotments grounds maintenance budget head.

AL21/23 **Leak to the stop cock**

The leak had been reported to Essex and Suffolk Water who were to visit the site, further information was awaited.

AL21/24 **Allotment concerns/issues**

Members asked for an monthly update from the Handyman.

AL21/25 **Allotment Security**

This item had been duplicated on the agenda.

AL21/26 **Delegated Authority**

As mentioned earlier in the meeting, the Clerk had written to tenants not tending their plots.

AL21/27 **Items for the next agenda**

To consider the update on the notice board.

AL21/28 **Future Committee meetings**

The next online Allotments Committee Meeting is on Wednesday 21st July 2021.

The meeting was closed at 7.32pm

Chairman's Signature

Dated