

# MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2010

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * Cllr K Barnes               | * Cllr Mrs Symonds             |
| * Cllr Mrs J Demonti,         | Cllr Miss Woodman              |
| * Cllr P Demonti,             |                                |
| * Cllr R Gilbert (Chairman),  | * Mr F Lacey                   |
| Cllr A Graham                 | * Mr T Robinson                |
| * Cllr D Peek (vice Chairman) | * Cllr C Woodward (ex-Officio) |

In attendance: James Parker – Chief Executive and approximately six members of the public. Lesley Howell – (new) Allotments administrator, Bishop's Stortford Town Council

- \* Denotes present

614. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Woodman (work commitments), Cllr A. Graham (work commitment), Mr Cornell.

615. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

616. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

617. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2009**

It was RESOLVED to accept these as an accurate record of the meeting.

618. **UP-DATE ON ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING(S) – APPENDIX 2**

It was agreed that Actions 84, 170, 141, 171 be closed. Item 172, for which closure was proposed, will remain open at the request of the Chief Executive.

619. **CURRENT WAITING LIST AND VACANT PLOTS**

The list was noted. It was stated that there are still 86 people in the queue which is a slight reduction but still too high. It was also noted that several people who have recently been offered plots have turned them down, and accordingly a full queue refresh and possibly a more aggressive policy where people turn down plots will be investigated by the Chief Executive in conjunction with site agents.

620. **SCALE OF CHARGES 2011-2012**

It was RESOLVED that the proposed standard charge of £3.00 per rod per year, with modifications for concessions and non-residents as proposed, be applied from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011. It was AGREED that the Chief Executive check whether it was previously agreed that existing plot holders from outside the town would not pay the non-residents uplift in 2010-2011.

621. **BEEKEEPING – UPDATE**

The Chief Executive reported that Guidelines for the keeping of hens and bees had been drawn up in conjunction with Mr Thake, Mr Osborne and drawing heavily on material available from the internet. Beekeepers must be members of a suitable association and cockerels are not allowed. A poster advertising the facility will be posted on each allotment and support/advice provided.

622. **POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL ALLOTMENT SITE**

The Chief Executive reported that work had progressed on establishing the feasibility of re-opening Hallingbury Road East. Essex Highways have conceded that they are obliged to re-instate access. There many details still to be worked out but it is hoped that it will be possible to open a small area of say 20 plots in May/June, ie. in time to plant winter vegetables. Demand will be assessed before a large amount of money is spent.

The Committee Chairman reported that he had recently been approached by a private landowner who has a site of Pig Lane and wishes to lease it to the Council for allotments. The Chief Executive stated that he would investigate this alternative.

623. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (MATTERS RAISED BY ALLOTMENT REPRESENTATIVES)**

One member of the public asked if budget was available to provide water to Elm Road Allotments. The Chief Executive advised that there was, subject to confirming an updated quote from the supplier. The budget is available from April 2010 and the work will be scheduled as soon as practical afterwards.

It was AGREED to delegate to the Chief Executive the job of dealing with the rabbits infesting Hallingbury Road West in the most expedient but humane fashion.

624. **ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None

625. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – E&PA AGENDA**

The Chairman advised that this would be the last meeting of the Allotments Committee and that, from the start of the new civic year, Allotments would be dealt with by the new Environment and Public Amenities Committee. The Chief Executive assured those present that meetings with site agents would continue, at an enhanced level.

It was AGREED that the Chief Executive would check whether there was any legal requirement or council resolution which allows or requires that lay members be able to vote on allotment matters.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.12pm