

Waddington Parish Council

Clerk: Chris Towers

clerk@waddingtonparishcouncil.org.uk

Local Government Act 1972 Allotment Committee Meeting of Waddington Parish Council

Meeting of the Parish Council (Allotment Committee) held in person on **Monday 10 MARCH 2025** at **6:30pm** in the Refectory meeting room at St Helen's Church Waddington

Minutes

1. Welcome and introduction

The Chair welcomed Committee members, allotment holders and members of the public and explained the purpose of the meeting and the process for public participation at Agenda point 4. The Chair also explained that after discussing the points on this agenda, the Committee would then be making recommendations to the full Council for their approval at a separate meeting to be held later that evening (10 March).

2. Attendance and apologies for absence

Present: Cllrs J Rattigan, R Edmondson, I Dixon, the Clerk and five allotment holders

Apologies: None

3. Declarations of interest

None declared

4. Public participation (max 5 minutes per person)

The meeting was adjourned to hear from members of the public wishing to address the Committee. It was explained to members of the public that when the meeting was brought into session, they would not be able to address the Committee.

An allotment holder enquired whether verbal agreements with residents of Queensway for allotment holders to park on access road by fence would be acceptable. The Chair highlighted that Queensway residents do not hold rights over the access road and advised that the Council's enquiries with RVBC as to ownership of the road were ongoing.

An allotment holder asked if the barbed wire could be removed from the fence bordering the field with Plots 1 & 2. It was agreed that the Council would make enquiries with the occupier of the field.

An allotment holder enquired if the water pipe was being repaired and when the supply would be turned back on. The Chair confirmed that the Council would be discussing this matter as an agenda item at its full meeting to be held later that evening (10 March).

5. Minutes of previous meeting

No minutes (as this is the first meeting of the Allotment Committee).

6. Social meeting facilities

The Chair explained that there were a number of underlying factors that would inform members' decisions when considering these and other requests on the agenda. The Clerk highlighted that: Use of the land must remain contractually compliant with both the Head Lease between the Trustees of the Alms Houses and the Parish Council, and the allotment holders' tenancy agreements, notably the prohibition of fires and incineration on the site; Any need to amend existing contracts would likely incur legal fees, which would represent a cost to the Council; Provision of new assets on site would incur associated costs such as design, installation, maintenance and repair; Public money should not be spent exclusively on a minority of the parish population.

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6.1 Shelter | 6.2 Seating | 6.3 Power Supply | 6.4 Notice Board | 6.5 Barbecues

The Chair advised that the Head Lease state that the land must be used for horticultural purposes, which is at odds with use specifically as a social facility. If allotment holders wished to pursue this request, then the Council would need to engage with the Alms Houses Trustees and seek agreement for a change of use. With dispensation from the Chair, allotment holders commented that any need for a 'social area' was already met by use of individual allotments.

7. Allotment Holders' Association

The Chair advised that the Council would likely have no objection either to the formation of a local association on the basis that the holders would be collectively responsible for the creation and administration of that association, or to allotment holders joining the National Allotment Holders Association. The Chair reiterated that the Council would not offer association funding on the basis that public money should not be spent for the exclusive benefit of a minority of parish residents.

8. Parking and access

It was noted that some allotment holders have sought agreement with individual Queensway residents to allow parking on the access road. The Council will pursue ongoing enquiries with RVBC to clarify road and garage ownership. However, it will remain for allotment holders to make contact with the established landowner as required in order to resolve any outstanding queries or concerns in respect of access and parking rights. With dispensation from the Chair, allotment holders acknowledged that whilst the continuing presence of an immobile vehicle outside the end garage could limit access for commercial deliveries to the allotments, they were able to use the main allotment gate for required access.

9. 'Spring Clean' event

The Chair explained that the new Lengthsman is scheduled to maintain the main access path whilst individual allotment holders remain responsible for the upkeep and tidiness of their respective plots. The Chair advised that whilst the Council could be asked to support with coordination of a clean up day, the Council would be restricted from spending public money to fund the event.

10. Burning and incineration

The Chair highlighted that the Head Lease prohibits the Council from allowing any nuisance to neighbouring landowners or occupiers, such as in respect of wind-blown smoke or ashes. With dispensation from the Chair, allotment holders queried what the original requestor was wishing to burn and noted that the relatively small amount of waste generated on plots could typically be composted or carried off site.

11. Matters brought forward by Cllrs and Clerk as information only

The Chair gave dispensation for the attending allotment holders to provide any consensus view re the various matters discussed. Comments were noted from a number of allotment holders highlighting their ambivalence to the submitted requests.

Members acknowledged a challenge from an allotment holder that the Council could exercise more robust monitoring and enforcement of compliant use of individual plots.

It was also commented that the Council could consider arranging additional Allotment Committee meetings, reflecting key stages in the horticultural season, such as March, July and November.

One allotment holder enquired as to the current availability of any vacant plots.

12. Next meeting

Date to be agreed

C Towers (Clerk & RFO)

