

## **BERKHAMSTED TOWN COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the Meeting of the**

### **ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Berkhamsted on

Monday 8 July 2019 at 10 am

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Councillors**

Garrick Stevens (Chair)  
Paul de Hoest  
Nicky Woolner

##### **Allotment Reps**

John Eaton, Sunnyside  
John Fisher, Butts Meadow  
Diana Reay, Dellfield  
Geoff Halls, Sunnyside  
Keely Siddiqui Charlick, Sunnyside Rural Trust

##### **Officers**

Janet Mason, Town Clerk  
John Bushby, Town Warden  
Katie Morrison, Admin Assistant

#### **OPENING MATTERS**

##### **AMT 20/19 Apologies for Absence**

No apologies for absence were received.

##### **AMT 21/19 Minutes of the previous Meeting**

- (i) To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 April 2019 (previously circulated);

The minutes were approved and signed subject to the removal of the final sentence of **AMT 15/19 (iv)**.

- (ii) To review action arising from the previous meeting not covered on the agenda.

##### **AMT 06/19 (ii)**

Town Council staff would be in touch with contractors in August regarding improved drainage at the end of B Road and to remove the chipping pile at Sunnyside Old.

**Action JM/JB**

### **AMT 07/19**

JM would similarly be in touch with an alternative contractor for tree work. **Action JM**

### **AMT 15/19**

The letters requested at the last meeting had been sent.

### **AMT 22/19 Chairman's Communications**

3 May e-mail from Lina Nieto, Public Affairs, Affinity Water regarding the company's WhyNotWater manifesto was noted (previously circulated 2-07-19).

**Noted**

### **AMT 23/19 Public Participation**

No members of the public were present.

### **FINANCE MATTERS**

### **AMT 24/19 Income and Expenditure Report**

- (i) Allotment income and expenditure reports at 31 May 2019 were discussed in detail.
- (ii) It was **noted** that at 31 May 2019 Allotment Reserves stood at £15,016.

### **ALLOTMENT MATTERS**

(Colony system papers had been emailed prior to the meeting and hard copies circulated during the meeting)

### **AMT 25/19** To consider, as appropriate, allotment and plot inspection reports and other current matters at:

- (i) Dellfield

DR requested that updated tenancy lists be circulated to the allotment representatives. She advised that warning letters should be issued. She also reported that a padlock had been purchased for the gate at north side of the site. It was confirmed that there were 3 vacancies and 14 on the waiting list. DR

advised that three people should be taken off the waiting list.

**Action Town Council**

- (ii) Sunnyside Old and Sunnyside New.

JE requested that warning letters be sent out. He reported that the site had 4 vacancies and 20 on the waiting list.

- (iii) Butts Meadow (JF)

JF requested that warning letters be sent out. He reported that the site had no vacancies and 7 on the waiting list. He also reported that the overgrown area at the boundary of plot 21 had been cut back.

**Action Town Council**

- (iv) Sunnyside Rural Trust (KSC).

No updates

**AMT 26/19**

(i) To consider whether to increase allotment charges for the allotment year commencing 30 September 2019 and to make recommendations as appropriate.

Due to variety of factors, it was **agreed** that discussions of allotment charge increases would be postponed. Changes to the charges would be considered for the allotment year commencing September 2020.

- (ii) To **receive and note** for future reference and information submitted by Ms J Sippings about the history of water charges (e-mailed to AMT 2-07-19)

**Noted**

- (iii) Also regarding water charges **to note** for future reference that a Dellfield Allotment plot holder has suggested the following possibility for water charges:

*“There was a discussion a little while ago about a more equitable split of water charges, recognising that tenants without hose licences also make use of the water supply, though probably in a much smaller quantity per unit area.*

*If this is still an active topic I wonder what would be the financial effect of charging £1.00 per pole for hose users and £0.50 per pole for others, the watering can users. These latter would need*

*to account for at least 50% of the Dellfield acreage to maintain your current income level.*

*The amounts of money per tenant are pretty trivial so it is really a question of the principle.”*

**Noted**

**AMT 27/19** Update on Town Council staffing

JM reported that after advertising the Allotment and Finance Officer vacancy in the spring, the role was not filled. As a result, the post would be re-advertised at the end of the summer holiday period.

**AMT 28/19** **Date of next meeting**

Monday 14 October 2019

**AMT 29/19** **Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.

**Signed**.....

**Date**.....