

SOMERCOTES PARISH COUNCIL

ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the Allotments Committee held at 6pm on Wednesday 9 January 2019 at Somercotes Village Hall

Persons Present: Cllr J McCabe, C Hedley (Clerk to the Council, C Addison-Lees (Treasurer & Secretary - Birchwood Allotments Association), M Hopkinson (Chair – Birchwood Allotments Association), Lindy Kirk (Treasurer – Sleetmoor Lane Allotment Association), John Lincoln (Secretary – Sleetmoor Lane Allotment Association), J Bonfield (Chairman - Bridle Lane Allotments Association), M Rumsby (Secretary – Bridle Lane Allotments Association)

AC/1/2019 Apologies – Paul Price (Sleetmoor Lane Allotment Association)

AC/2/2019 The minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2018 were agreed.

AC/3/2019 Birchwood Allotment

(a) Ingress of water from Birchwood Lane and Entry area, top gate was still a problem. Clerk to write to DCC again for response.

(b) Request made from the Association for a donation of £350 from the Council for the purchase of more hedging plants, to secure perimeter hedge. Association to apply for funding via the S137 process.

(c) Cllr McCabe reiterated the Council's position that the AVBC guidance on the use of bonfires on allotment sites should be followed. Birchwood Lane Allotment Association agreed to formulate an alternative guidance which would be forwarded to AVBC for their response.

(d) Social Events – It was agreed that Associations wishing to hold a social event on the Allotment grounds must apply in writing to the Council.

AC/4/2019 Allotment Judging. Concerns were expressed at the timing of the allotment judging. It was agreed that the Council would request judging to take place in July 2019, but that this would ultimately be dependent on the judges availability.

AC/5/2019 Sleetmoor Lane Allotments

Sleetmoor Lane Allotment Association requested funding for rat traps and were advised to apply via the S137 process.

AC/6/2019 Bridle Lane Allotments

(a) The Chairman of Bridle Lane Allotments advised that bonfires would be banned on the allotment site during the period April – September inclusive.

(b) Flooding was still occurring on site between the chip shop and the main gate. The water settles at the bottom gates at Swanwick Road. Clerk to write to DCC to request that they investigate.

AC/7/2019 New Allotment Agreement

The following amendments were made:

- (a) Paragraph 9. Line Four – Remove “...must not contain...” and replace with “...shall not contain...”

After Line Ten insert: “Structures shall be raised at least 8” from the ground”.

- (a) Paragraph 17 – Delete entirely and insert: “The carrying and use of firearms is not permitted on the Allotment Gardens.”

- (c) Paragraph 21. First line - Replace “Tenant” with “Association”

Third & Fourth line – Remove: “...on initial signing of this agreement and with the payment of each annual rent.”

AC/8/2019 Draft Animals on Allotments Policy

The above draft policy was discussed and the following were agreed:

- (a) The requirement to be an experienced bee keeper would be further investigated to ascertain the implications of novice bee keepers keeping bees on allotment sites.
- (c) The prohibition of cockerels on site be removed.

The meeting ended at 7.05pm