

# **Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on the **10<sup>th</sup> April 2024** at the Court Room, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

**Those present:** Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr Chris Davies, Mr Roger House, Mr Elvin Mullinger, Mrs Clementine Kingstone, Mr John Waterman, Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Cllr Colin Burgess. PCSO Emily Odell, part time.

**Apologies:** None.

Prior to the proper meeting start we had a discussion with PCSO Emily Odell (EO) who confirmed our local 'bobby' to be PC mark Parnell and went on to discuss the spate of thefts which we had experienced at the allotments this last year. The committee tabled a diagram indicating the items taken, and date, and discussed to the issues ongoing. EO emphasised the importance of reporting any theft, small or large, as this will assist in building a picture of the issues in the area. She went on to confirm there had been quite a number of shed thefts across Romsey these last few months and are requesting people be vigilant in this respect. With regard to challenging perceived perpetrators, we were advised to be careful in this respect and to take photographic evidence if possible.

We agreed that a comment on the thefts should be included in the forthcoming spring newsletter.

We thanked PCSO for her attendance.

**4.1 The Minutes** of the last meeting were confirmed as read.

Any matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

**4.2 Correspondence:**

**4.2.1 Plot thefts:**

CD confirmed no further news from RAHA site.

CB confirmed that the contact details for our local bobby, PC Mark Parnell can be found on the police website.

**4.2.2** It was agreed that the current proposals put forward by CD for the car park repairs were too expensive with quotes of £13500 & £19,000.00. CB to contact Howard Brisland of RTC for a reduced specification which should be of lesser cost and more affordable to the allotments management committee & Romsey Town Council.

**4.3 Finance:** no recent accounts have been obtained from RTC.

**4.4 Allotments:**

**4.4.1** EM tabled warning notices which were sent out to plots 63, 100 and 114 with correspondence received from plot 100 in reply.

**4.4.2** EM also tabled an 'allotment plot lettings update' outlining the state of play with a number of plots across site which also illustrates that all plots are currently fully occupied.

**4.4.3** Plot 51 has confirmed to MN that he will be unable to give his plot his full attention this year due to a recent health diagnosis.

#### **4.5 Distribution Centre:**

The shop is open to tenants when a committee member is present on site.

**4.6 Plot Assessments:** RH & MN are due to carry out the next inspection within the next few days.

**4.7 Councillor's Report:** Report received from CB on 10th April was issued to committee members prior to this meeting and is appended to rear of these minutes.

**4.7.1** CB requested that the current rules be amended so as to be not gender specific, CD believes this has already been carried out, but will check.

#### **4.8 AOB:**

**4.8.1** A further discussion has taken place between CD, CB & Town Hall regarding the lease agreement between Broadlands Estate and Romsey Town Council and it was decided to leave the situation as-is with the current non-applicable lease agreement so as to not disturb the status-quo with the land owner. However, should the need arise, we can fall back on the allotments acts of 1948 and the National society of Allotment Gardens (NSALG) membership to provide us with assistance in the event of being served a potential site termination.

**4.8.2** It was agreed that the memorial plaque to Mark Edgerly, discussed last month, is to be placed adjacent to the defibrillator when installed.

**4.8.3.** Discussion took place on how the car park repairs could be funded and it was agreed that approx. £4k could be taken from our earmarked reserves, leaving us with a reserve of £2k, with the difference being made up by a grant from RTC which we could be pay back in instalments over the coming years.

**4.8.4.** It was agreed that the responsibility for the removal of plot waste from the allotment site was the responsibility of the individual tenants.

the meeting closed at 09:30pm.

***Chris Davies***

Committee Secretary

***Mike Nobbs***

Chairman

Date ... ***15/05/24***

**Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024, 7:30pm at the mayor's parlour, Romsey Town Hall at 7:30pm.**

## **Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee**

Meeting 10 April 2024

### **Councillor's Report**

#### Entrance Car Park

Two quotes received and circulated to Committee members.

#### Thefts From Sheds

PC Mark Pannell our "beat Bobby" will (subject to no last-minute emergency) attend tonight's meeting to discuss the thefts from our allotments over the past year. According to [Police.UK](https://www.police.uk/), no reports of thefts have been made to the Police up to 29 February. They need to be reported to the 101 service.

#### Defibrillator

No update. I need to confirm the need for a power supply as this will determine the requirements.

#### Broadlands Lease

The Chief Officer is aware the Town Council was provided with an incorrect version of the Lease by Broadlands Estate. I believe the first page is incorrect in stating the location of the Allotment. The remainder of the document appears correct. I will ask the Chief Officer to obtain a correct copy of the Lease.

#### Allotment Rules

To comply with current Diversity protocols, the [Allotment Rules](#) need to be updated to remove any gender specific terminology. For example, under Section 6 all references to "He" should be amended to "They".

Cllr Colin Burgess

10 April, 2024

# Romsey Town Council Allotment Management Committee

## Agenda

Date: *15th<sup>th</sup> May 2024*

1. Apologies:
2. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising:
3. Correspondence:
  - a. *Site thefts*
  - b. *Meeting RTC, CD & CB to ask committee if in agreement with regard CD writing to RTC and Broadlands for approval to approach Environment agency to sink a test borehole.*
  - c. *Car Parking?*
  - d. *RTC Lease issues*
4. Finance: *Report.*
5. Allotments:
6. Plots lettings: Waiting list ?
7. Councilors Report:
8. AOB:-

Next Meeting date: *June/ July 24?*