

Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on the **28th August 2024** at the Court Room, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

Those present: Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr Chris Davies, Mr Elvin Mullinger, Mr John Waterman, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Cllr Colin Burgess, Mr Roger House, Mrs Lisa Fallowfield.

Apologies: None

8.1 The Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as read.

Any matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

8.2 Correspondence:

8.2.1 Pruning of the cherry tree at plot 114 will be undertaken this October to a more manageable height. LS to obtain costs from a reputable tree surgeon for work to be undertaken safely. The tenant to plot 118 has already carried out his own tree surgery.

8.2.2 Car park repairs: During a recent meeting involving our Town Councillors' Rep, Council Officials, TVBC and HCC, the latter two Authorities offered to accept responsibility for the repairs to the entrance car park. The damage to the surface having been caused by the heavy plant used by HCC's Contractors whilst upgrading the nearby cycle path. TVBC plan to undertake the necessary work before 31 December, 2024.

8.2.3 Permission to drill boreholes for water exploration has been approved by Broadlands.

8.3 Finance: The accounts are appended to the rear of these minutes indicating a surplus of £38.20 with a reserve of £6170.00. EV to contact Town Hall to enquire as to why the water bill is so low at £34.00.

8.4 Allotments:

EM tabled a list of the 'Allotment plot lettings update' outlining the current status of plots: -

8.4.1 Currently there is a waiting list of 8, with 6 on hold until next season.

8.4.2 Plot 16 is currently under appeal and upheld. Condition of plot to be monitored over next 6 months and reviewed accordingly. We are informed that although the holder has serious health issues it was discussed whether they could continue for the time being.

8.4.3 Plots 21 & 116 have both resigned. These will be re-let to new tenants from the waiting list.

8.4.4 Improvement required notices has been sent to plot 40.

8.4.5 Plots 45, 63, 91, 98 & 100 have been issued with termination notices, which under the rules they have a right to appeal.

8.5 Distribution Centre:

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

8.6 Councillor's Report:

Defibrillator: CB reports that Mr James Lafeatty, RTC buildings manager, is currently investigating the feasibility of installing a wind/ solar powered unit at the allotments.

Following issues at Kings Chase with double plot letting it was discussed and agreed that all future plot lettings would require the agreement of at least two committee members prior to the allocation of a 'vacant' plot.

8.7 AOB:

8.7.1 As discussed in previous meetings, our landlords, Broadlands, intend to increase our ground rental costs from October 2025. Realising that we need to increase our plot rentals accordingly, an investigation has been carried out to determine how our plot rent, existing and proposed, compares to other local authorities, for which we are placed about average.

It was concurred that we would increase the plot rental to £40.00 per annum from October 2025, pending agreement at the next AGM.

8.7.2 From last meeting, CD was requested to acquire a new quote for the rules board to then forward to Town hall for payment. However, CD confirmed this could only be carried out as and when the rules have been finally settled with no further foreseeable amendments. The rules are currently amended to August 2024.

8.7.3 CD believes that the incorrect rules issue which JW highlighted at last meeting has now been addressed.

the meeting closed at 09:30pm.

Chris Davies

Committee Secretary

Date ... ***24/09/24***

Mike Nobbs

Chairman

Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 22nd October 2024, 6:30pm at the mayor's parlour, Romsey Town Hall prior to the AGM at 7:30pm.

Budget £
1100
750
55
0
180
0
150
220
250
2705