

## KEIGHLEY TOWN COUNCIL

### Minutes of a meeting of the Allotments and Landscapes Committee held in the Victoria Room, Keighley Civic Centre on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

**Present:** Councillor Kirby (Chair)  
Councillor Corkindale (ex-Officio)  
Councillor Maunsell  
Councillor A Walker

**Also Present:** Councillor Adams  
Anne Wilson, Locum Town Clerk  
Nichola Powell, Minute Secretary  
3 x Hard Ings Allotment Holders

#### **60/2018 (ALL) Fire Safety Announcement**

A fire safety announcement was made.

#### **61/2018 (ALL) Apologies for Absence**

**RESOLVED** to receive apologies of absence from:

- Councillor C A Mahmood
- Councillor Shaw, personal reasons

#### **62/2018 (ALL) Declarations of Interest**

**RESOLVED** there were no declarations of interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 s32 and the relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 from either Members or Officers.

#### **63/2018 (ALL) Public Question Time and Participation**

There were questions raised by the members of the public present.

#### **64/2018 (ALL) Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 be confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

#### **65/2018 (ALL) Allotments and Landscapes Matters**

65.1 **RESOLVED** that the Allotments & Landscapes Committee members accept the price increase proposed by Steve Thorpe by £1 per hour with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. This means that instead of £3,600 per annum the cost will be £3,890 per annum.

65.2 The Locum Town Clerk informed members that no quote had been received to date for the hanging baskets.

**RESOLVED** that delegated authority is given to the Locum Town Clerk to liaise with Steve Thorpe over the hanging baskets for the Memorial Square and agree the costs.

65.3 The Chair informed members that there had been damage to the Memorial Square railings.

**RESOLVED** that a 3 year contract be agreed for the Memorial Square railings to be washed on a weekly basis and painted annually at a cost of £2,676 per annum.

- 65.4 The Locum Town Clerk informed members she was looking at involving local children to assist with the planting in the Memorial Square and other places around the town. She also said this would enhance the Town Council's entry into Yorkshire in Bloom.

**RESOLVED** that the Locum Town Clerk contact local schools, brownies, guides, scouts, etc to get involved in the planting in the Memorial Square and other places around the town.

- 65.5 **RESOLVED** that due to the cost involved for Braithwaite Road this be rejected.

- 65.6 The Chair informed members that non-allotment holders had been onto the Hard Ings Allotment site and taken photos of the livestock stating that the animals were in bad condition and kept in unclean conditions so they had contacted the RSPCA with their concerns. The non-allotment holders attended site again with the RSPCA Officer and tried to gain access to the site. The Allotments Officer and the Chairs representative refused them access but welcomed the RSPCA Officer onto the site. Following the visit the Officer said she did not have any concerns apart from one minor fault regarding bedding for the ducks.

Unfortunately following the visit to the site by the non-allotment holders the Chair's representative had received verbal abuse and unpleasant comments on social media. Due to these comments and the threat of "liberating" the animals the police had been contacted who would be visiting the people concerned requesting them to stop harassing Councillors and allotment holders.

The Allotments Officer would be writing to all the allotment holders stating they should refuse permission to these individuals to enter the site.

**RESOLVED** that members of the public be banned from any allotment site without permission from either the allotment holders and/or the Office and anybody who does illegally access a site will be prosecuted.

One of the allotment holders informed the Committee that there were issues with the fencing which was not very secure. The Chair agreed to visit the site and report back to the Office.

Members discussed installing CCTV at the allotments and it was confirmed that the Watch & Transport Committee would be looking into this issue in the new civic year.

- 65.7 The Chair informed members that Steve Thorpe was spending time with the children from Laycock Primary School planting in Laycock Layby.

- 65.8 The Locum Town Clerk informed members that she had been in touch with Bradford MDC regarding lighting up the Memorial Square and Civic Centre at Christmas but had been informed there was unfortunately no money remaining in the budget for more lights in Keighley.

**RESOLVED** that lighting in the Memorial Square and lighting up the Civic Centre at Christmas would be reviewed in the next civic year.

**66/2018 (ALL) Matters to be tabled relevant to this Committee**

There were none.

**67/2018 (ALL) Future Agenda Items**

- Memorial Square and Civic Centre Christmas lighting

**68/2018 (ALL) Date of Next Committee Meeting**

Members noted that there was no further scheduled meeting of the Allotments & Landscapes Committee but if due to the nature of the business to be transacted and extra-ordinary meeting of the Committee is required then a meeting will be called.

The Chair thanked all members of the Committee for their attendance at meetings and their assistance during the year.

There being no further issues raised the Chair closed the meeting at 18.30 and thanked all for attending.

**Signed** ..... **Date** .....  
**Chair**