 WARWICK TOWN COUNCIL

Court House

Jury Street

WARWICK

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Tel: 01926 411694

Jayne Topham

Town Clerk

### **ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MONDAY 10th JULY 2023**

**Present:**

Councillor K Dray

Councillor E Harrison

Councillor R Kang

Councillor J Sullivan

Councillor P Wightman

Councillor Oliver Jacques

Mrs K Geddes (Assistant Town Clerk)

**Co-opted Members:**

Steve Poynter (PEAS), Phil Borrill (PEAS), Cliff Wiggins (Railwayside), Alan Will (Canalside), Peter Lamb (WHS), Dan McLeod (Myton Green)

**MINUTES**

1. **Election of Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24**

Councillor John Sullivan was nominated as Chair by Councillor Katya Dray and seconded by Councillor Raj Kang. There were no other nominations. A vote of members followed which was unanimously in favour. Therefore, Councillor John Sullivan was elected Chair of the Allotments Committee 2023/24

1. **Apologies**

Peter Atkinson (Cape Housing West), Simon Wilson (Canalside)

1. **Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests**

None made

1. **Election of Deputy Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/24**

Councillor Katya Dray was nominated by Councillor Raj Kang and seconded by Councillor Paul Wightman. There were no other nominations. A vote of members followed which was unanimously in favour. Therefore, Councillor Katya Dray was elected Deputy Chair of the Allotments Committee for 2023/24.

1. **Update from Allotment Administration** – Mrs Katherine Geddes

Report had been circulated and was noted.

Plots 1B and 21B on Cape Housing had now been taken by people previously on the waiting list. Both plots had been untenanted for some time and were badly overgrown. Both new tenants have paid their deposits and had an initial three month period rent-free as per the tenancy agreement. Request to this Committee to permit a year’s tenancy of these plots rent-free until May 2024 to enable the new plotholders to return the plots to a good, cultivated state. – this was unanimously agreed.

Issue with rotten post at the Railwayside site access gate. Cliff sourcing quote from local handyman to replace and move the gate further down the fence for better access.

Hole in the fence at the bottom of Cape Housing East was causing issues with people accessing the sit inappropriately. Not currently happening as the area is very overgrown and the fence is inaccessible at the moment. Agreed to wait until the autumn when the planting dies off and the fence can be accessed again in order to check the situation.

1. **Site Reports**

Steve Poynter reported that the hedge along the vehicular path at PEAS still needs

trimming back. WDC had agreed to do this but to date no action has been taken. Asst

Town Clerk to chase.

1. **Myton Green Allotment Site**

The transfer of the site from Warwick District Council to Warwick Town Council is still in

process. The temporary lease between Warwick District Council and Warwick Town

Council has been drafted to expedite access to the site. This lease has been checked by

the Town Council’s solicitors and (with some minor changes suggested) has been

returned to the District Council’s solicitors for final confirmation. Then the lease can be

signed by both parties.

Once that has happened, an initial on-site meeting will be arranged to look at the plot

arrangement and shed location/erection.

1. **Allotments Judging Day**

Saturday 24th June – started at 9:30am at PEAS and concluded at 1:30pm at Canalside.

Judge was Andrew Caine and he was met by the site reps at each location. Councillors

Harrison and Sullivan also attended. The day was very hot and water was gratefully

accepted. Results have been sent through to each site and winners informed via letter.

Awards and certificates will be given out at the AGM/Presentation Evening on Monday

4th September. Trophies have been/to be retrieved from last year’s winners.

Allotment plotholders have been informed of and invited to the AGM.

1. **Carbon Neutral Ideas**

Site reps had returned a variety of ideas from their plotholders re. improving carbon

neutral ways of cultivating and tending the allotments, and these were listed on the

accompanying document. A request had been made for a simple explanation of the

differences between Carbon Neutral, Net Zero and Climate Neutral – this was also

included on the document.

It was agreed that the document be turned into an attractive poster which can go to

each site for display/websites, and a number for handing out. Carbon Neutral then to

be focus of National Allotment Week in Warwick (7th – 13th August).

Signed……………………………………. Dated………………………………………