



THE TOWN COUNCIL
OF
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA
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STEPHEN MARKS
Clerk to the Town Council

Date: 5th October 2020

Dear Councillor,

A meeting of the **Allotments Sub Committee** will be held on **12th October 2020** commencing at **6.00 pm**.

This meeting will be held remotely and can be accessed as follows:-

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89260836395?pwd=bnVUOFJyNW5aT1krdU1xTzhONGNWUT09>

Meeting ID: 892 6083 6395

Passcode: 560155

The business will be as set out below.

Yours faithfully,

CLERK TO THE TOWN COUNCIL

To Councillors: Janet Alty, Sarah Boad, David Brunson, Susan Rasmussen and Nick Wilkins.

Representatives of Allotment Associations and Societies.

(All other Members of the Town Council – for information. Non- members of the Committee are invited to join the meeting using the link provided above.)

AGENDA

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

To appoint a Chair of the Allotments Sub-Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2020/21.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee are invited to declare any interest they may have in items identified for discussion at the Meeting.

4. MINUTES

To consider and approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on 11th November 2019. (Report No.4)

5. PROGRESS REPORTS

To receive progress reports / activity updates from the allotment associations and consider any matters raised.

6. FUNDING APPLICATIONS

To consider applications for funding from the 2020/21 Allotment budget.
The budget is £5,800.
Details of bids for funding will follow.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

To consider ways of addressing environmental objectives (biodiversity, climate change, efficient use of resources) through allotment activity.

4.MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE HELD ON 11TH NOVEMBER, 2019 AT THE TOWN HALL, LEAMINGTON SPA

Present: Councillors Susan Rasmussen (Chair), David Brunson, Sarah Boad and Nick Wilkins.

Name	Allotment Association
Stuart Vinney	Cliffe Allotment Association
Martin Hurst	Binswood Allotment Society
Tristan Stephens	Binswood Allotment Society
Jane Malone	Campion Hills Allotments
Dave Limmer	Campion Hills Allotments
Ian Fletcher	Old Milverton Allotment Association
Brian Southam	Old Milverton Allotment Association

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED that Councillor S. Rasmussen is appointed Chair of the Allotments Sub-Committee for 2019/20.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mike Jones, (Campion Hills) and Kristen Gasser (Binswood).

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, Councillor Rasmussen declared a pecuniary interest in the funding applications as an Allotment holder at Binswood Allotments.

4. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Allotments Sub-Committee held on 19th November, 2018 are confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5. **PROGRESS REPORTS**

The following activities had taken place during the year and were reported as follows:-

Cliffe Allotment Association

The Council grant in 2018 had been applied for the purchase of new sheds and hedge trimming. Work had been undertaken to facilitate the provision of a community orchard – this was also beneficial in managing the drainage of part of the site. Lettings over the year had been consistent with 8 new tenants. There were only 2 people awaiting allocation of a plot.

Old Milverton Allotment Association

The site consists of 38 plots of which 27 are presently let as full plots and 11 as half plots. There are 10 people on the waiting list. The grant from the Council had been used to address erosion of the culvert embankment which had been threatening several plots. This had been supplemented with a significant grant from the District

Council Flood Alleviation Scheme. Arising from the over estimation of granite stones needed for the alleviation scheme, it had been possible to reallocate £218 of unused funding to hedge cutting works and the renovation of a rotavator.

Campion Hills Allotment Association

A working party had been composed to undertake the plot clearance that had been funded with a grant from the Town Council in 2018. It was intended to utilise the newly created area for cultivating a communal orchard. Plot holders were encouraged to collect rainwater to minimise metered consumption. The site had been subject to incidents of forced entry and vandalism which was being managed through the introduction of CCTV cameras.

The site comprised 103 full plots with 25 let as half plots and 8 as mini-plots. Many new tenants found managing a full size plot too physically demanding which had led to a demand for more half plots. 31 plots were currently subject to discussion with the tenants as to the continuation of their tenancy. The presence of mature trees presented a challenge to the continued cultivation of 12 plots which were presently deemed unusable.

Binswood Allotment Society

There was presently only one vacant plot and no waiting list. Vacancies were generally re-let almost immediately. The site comprised 153 plots with 36 half plots. An increasing number of tenants were now women. There had been a successful programme of social events throughout the year including a Community Art exhibition. The Society celebrates its centenary in 2020 and was planning on replacing the Community hut. Additional land for plots may be created through the demolition of a redundant pig sty.

6. **FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

Consideration was given to applications for funding from the 2019/20 Allotment budget. Following consideration of the respective bids for funding it was

RESOLVED to recommend the Policy and Resources Committee that grants are awarded as follows:-

(1)	<u>Cliffe Allotments</u>		
	Purchase of new sheds	£495	
(2)	<u>Old Milverton Allotments</u>		
	Boundary hedge cutting	£750	
	Gravel boards	£300	£1050
(3)	<u>Campion Hills Allotments</u>		
	Site Clearance work		£1,200
4)	<u>Binswood Allotment Society</u>		
	Fencing Repairs	£360.	
	Occasional Tables	£388	
	Skip Hire	£500	£1248

Note: Councillor Rasmussen, having earlier declared a pecuniary interest as a plot holder at Binswood Allotments, left the meeting and took no part in the discussion and voting on the above item.

7. **MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

The Chair referred to the decision of the Town Council to declare a climate emergency in July and the consideration now being given to measures that would encourage people to embrace activities that were carbon neutral in their impact on the climate. In terms of Allotments, she referred to the opportunities to encourage biodiversity and use environmentally friendly solutions to assist cultivation.

The Allotment Association representatives were invited to discuss possible solutions that can be implemented relatively easily and at minimum cost. Among the various options outlined were:-

- Shredding/ pulping of tree/hedge cuttings
- Use of sustainable weed suppressants
- On site composting
- Water harvesting
- Creating pollinator friendly environments

It was noted that the budget allocated to assist projects at Allotments was under spent by £1800; this was a potential funding source to assist Allotments with encouraging environmentally sustainable practices among their Members.

RESOLVED that the Allotment Associations are invited to submit proposals for funding assistance in respect of encouraging environmentally sustainable practices.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS ARISING**

A question was raised in relation to competitions among the membership of Allotment Associations. Generally, there was little enthusiasm for competitions among members, though the idea could be raised and considered at forthcoming meetings. In relation to surplus produce, all the Associations presently donated items in various ways. The contact details of local Food Banks, Homeless Charities and the Canal side Food Co-operative would be obtained and circulated to the Secretary of each Association by the Town Clerk.

Ian Fletcher of Old Milverton Association referred to the restitution of damage to boundary hedging caused by contractors working for Warwickshire County Council in 2018. Whilst a new fence had been erected to provide some security, the planting of a new hedge that had been promised by the County Council had not materialised. It was agreed that a further letter would be sent by the Town Clerk on this matter.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm. and ended at 6.55 pm