

# **Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee**

Minutes of the meeting held on the **13th February 2023**, at the Mayors Parlour, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

**Those present:** Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr John Waterman, Mr Roger House, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mr Elvin Mullinger, Ms Clementine Kingstone, Mr Chris Davies.

**Apologies:** Cllr. J Cairney.

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

Any matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

**2.2 Correspondence:** None at present

**2.3 Finance:** Following prior financial queries on the accounts from Plot 115 at the AGM in October 22, it was discussed whether the format of the committee meeting minutes, with finances attached to rear, would be adequate to address the issues raised. It was agreed that as all the dates required are covered then this should be satisfactory. Plot 115 has not reported anything back to the contrary.

There is a refund of £10.00 due to plot holders which have been overcharged for their half plots, Mr Perry, plot 56 is an example.

RTC have confirmed to EV that payments for subscriptions, taken by card on the eve of the AGM shown as 'card reader charges' in the Expenditure have incurred a small charge for values in excess of £30.00. The treasurer would emphasise the need to request future payments be by BACS only to ensure that these fees are not incurred.

EV confirmed that funds for future 'expenses' are being provided from RTC via the 'Earmarked reserves' which currently stands at £6000.00.

No future expenditure is planned at this stage but the committee will continue to bear in mind the condition of the roads, car parks and Distribution Centre.

**2.4 Allotments:** At present, all vacant plots have been let and these are numbers 7, 43, 85, 87, 98, 105, 108 and 114.

EM confirmed that the 'waiting' list currently stands at 7.

EM confirmed that he can adjust the entrance gate to achieve a satisfactory vertical alignment.

The new notice board has been erected.

CD requested information from all parties to ascertain the extent of Vermin (rats) present across the site and had requested 'Allota-News' for information as well.

Unfortunately, the response from the latter did not address the issue and is now none the wiser as to the extent of the infestation, however it was discussed that the issue is fairly widespread across the site and needs addressing. MN confirmed he would speak to a professional in this respect so that hopefully we could move forward to eradicate the vermin across the site.

CD has reviewed available and cost-effective methods of providing new car park surfacing for the area at the entrance and 2 further parking areas and will report upon this in due course. The survey of the areas involved, although started, is ongoing and likely to take some time to achieve.

Mentioned in the meeting but not confirmed is the suitability of a product called 'Bodpave', or similar, which is an interlocking plastic mesh which is filled with gravel to form the surfacing.

There are still issues with the closing of the gate, particularly from morning users and it is thought appropriate to produce an introductory letter to all new tenants to partially address this issue, and with continued pressure on existing plot holders.

An unknown plot holder is fly tipping weeds and other debris across the fence at the southern boundary on to the adjacent farmer's field. A polite notice has been put up but the issue continues and we need to be vigilant to catch the culprit.

**2.5 Distribution Centre:** The unused 48 Gallon water troughs still available in the centre for purchase, as is the multiuse strimmer/tree cutter.

Regarding the necessary repairs to the structure, CD to provide a report and prepare a specification for tender in due course.

The shop is open to tenants when Mike, plot 42 is on site or any other committee member if approached by a tenant.

**2.6 Plot Assessment:** First assessments for the coming year will commence in at the end of February/ beginning of March 2023.

It was suggested that all committee members walk about and socialise with other plot holders.

**2.7 Councillor's Report:** None.

**2.8 AOB:**

RH confirmed he had attended the 'Mayors at Home' event where he was congratulated for his 25 years' service as committee secretary. JW confirmed he had received a gratitude letter from RTC for his role as chairman.

RH confirmed that residents from the 'Romsey Extra' areas are likely to be incorporated within Romsey Town councils remit and, as such, will be eligible to apply for a plot at the RTC allotments.

Further, it is thought that the 32 recently constructed allotments at Gangers farm/ Kings chase are likely to be incorporated within RTC's remit in due course, however, it is thought that there is/ will be a separate management arrangement for this site.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

***Chris Davies***

Committee Secretary

***Mike Nobbs***

Chairman

Date ... ***15/03/2023***

**Next meeting is proposed to be held on Monday 20th March, 2023, 7.45pm at Romsey Town Hall.**