



## **Draft Minutes of Allotments Committee Meeting**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023** at Greenwood Room Hebden Bridge Town Hall

**Present: Clare Wells, Rosemary Daley, Cllr Dyter, and the Clerk.**

NB – in the absence of two councillors the meeting was not quorate so any decision making must be ratified at the next meeting.

1. Apologies for absence. Cllr Lomax, Cllr King, Lisa Martin, Melanie Taylor.
2. Declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. None.
3. Confirmed minutes of the meeting of the Allotments committee in March 2023.
4. Information about matters arising from the minutes of last meeting. Noted that the further discussions regarding simplification of the contract have not yet happened due to councillor illness, but this is still desired by the ploholders, whenever possible. Also noted that the borders mentioned previously are not considered essential so agreed not to move forward with this.
5. Contract for maintenance of communal areas. Clerk queried whether the maintenance was done in a timely way and fulfilled the needs of the ploholders. Ploholders agreed that they are happy to have it done 3 times a year except the small wildflower area (only the bit to the west of the slope). Some discussion about timings - ploholders to consider and get back to Clerk. Clerk will oversee this to a greater degree to check the contractor is sticking to the schedule and write to ask whether he wishes to continue next year.
6. Report of progress from the Charlestown Allotments Group and future action plan: Difficult year weather-wise, but feel it has been successful nevertheless. Won first prize from the Fete. Good attendance at the meetings and have had one working party and due another in 3 weeks, and also having a social after the next meeting.  
Changed the padlock on the gate to a combination lock which is working better.  
Remembered that the communal areas are also open to the surrounding houses and are going to put some notices that they are allowed to pick fruit.  
Report from the Liaison visit was reviewed and generally positive and felt to be fair.
- 6.1. Report from Allotments Group on budget and balances. No change.
7. Tenancy issues – no tenancy issues. Clerk explained the reasons for needing to raise the rents, which is due to a significant rise in the standing charge for the water. The rents are unlikely to cover the water bills, and do not want to be charging other parishioners through council tax for allotments water. Also there has been no rent rise since the allotments were instituted (previously there had been no need to increase yearly). Ploholders have discussed this and feel this is fair, but will now review for the next meeting.
8. Financial matters: None
9. Dates and venue of future meetings – March 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm preceeded by the allotment ploholders meeting.