



BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Allotments Committee held at Arms Everytne House on Thursday 5 January 2017 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillors: K Ellis (Chair), J R Potts (Vice Chair), B Elliott, R Parker, O Potts.

Also in Attendance:

Councillor A Cartie

Officers:

M Wilkinson	Deputy Town Clerk
D Clough	Allotments Officer
M Hawthorne	Committee Clerk

Members of the Public – 0

The Chair welcomed the new Deputy Town Clerk, Malcolm Wilkinson, to the Committee.

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor C Bruce, L Rickerby. J Hughes, Town Clerk.
2.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS & THE GRANT OF ANY DISPENSATIONS None.
3.	ALLOTMENTS OFFICER'S REPORT & APPROVED BUDGET SHEET FROM ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE ON 4 OCTOBER 2016 The Allotments Officer referred to his report which outlines the short/medium term plan.

	<p>He drew attention to the amended figure for the work required to the lanes at Bolam allotments, £74,280 (a reduction of £12,000), following a discussion with the contractor.</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts proposed that as there is an underspend of £14,000 in this year's budget, the work is started on Winship and Beatrice in this financial year. He further added that if the contractor is agreeable, the work could start at the end of March with a view to beginning the work on Wensleydale at the beginning of April from next year's budget. The Allotments Officer will explore this further and also look to negotiating a reduction in the overall cost.</p> <p>It was noted that if the concrete fencing needs replacing due to a health and safety issue then the work will be carried out. The Allotments Officers has provided detailed costings in his report which will be presented to the Allotments Committee on 2 February 2017.</p> <p>Councillor Parker asked if the concrete panels which are removed and in good condition, could be stored and used to replace damaged sections elsewhere. The Allotments Officer will check to see if this is possible, however, it was noted that there may be an issue with storage.</p> <p>Councillor Elliott referred to the rates for the Palisade fencing and pointed out that for a large area it would prove costly. He asked for clarification that the rates will be cheaper for a larger area and the Allotments Officer will provide further information.</p> <p>Committee agreed to the proposal from Councillor J R Potts that the work commences on Winship and Beatrice in this financial year and with Wensleydale following in April.</p> <p>Budget Sheets</p> <p>Councillor J R Potts asked if the arrangements for the rent increases are in place, which the Allotments Officer confirmed.</p> <p>Committee agreed to the budget sheets, subject to the amendments.</p>
4	ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND URGENT BUSINESS None.

5	DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING Thursday 2 February 2017, 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Arms Everytne House.
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MEMBERS OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Councillors:

K Ellis (Chair)

J R Potts (Vice-Chair)

B Elliott

R Parker

O Potts

L Rickerby

D Rutter

A Turnbull