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MINUTES for the Meeting of the Allotment Committee of YEOVIL PARISH COUNCIL held online on 10th February 2022 at 7.00pm – 8.37pm

Present – Kevin Brown, Michaela Brown, Cllr Iris Coton, Ruth Foster, Phil Hobbs, John Orchard, Cllr Colin Rose, Martin Smith & Dan Ledger (Clerk)

AL1/22. Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Daniella Brow – Work

Polly Hutchinson – Personal

Committee **RECOMMENDED** to accept the apologies

AL2/22. Declaration of interest

The following members declared personal interests as allotment tenants – Kevin Brown, Michaela Brown, Ruth Foster, Phil Hobbs, John Orchard & Martin Smith

AL3/22. Minutes

The Committee **AGREED** the minutes of the 16th July 2021 as a true record

AL4/22. Budget

The budget to date was **NOTED** by the Committee

AL5/22. Allotment Plots & Tenancies

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the tenant of 4c to be served notice to vacate the plot. The Committee is to meet on the 20th February 2022 and then feed back suggestions to the Clerk on potentially revising the layout of the plot to incorporate further community uses.

AL6/22. Allotment Inspections

Committee **NOTED** the report from the Clerk and **RECOMMENDED** that the next set of allotment inspections would take place w/c 11th April 2022

AL7/22. Allotment Improvements

The Clerk gave a verbal report outlining that project improvements may only continue with full consent of the council and written confirmation of the Clerk on each project.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** to Council that with the remainder of this

year's allotment budget that the following items be bought:

1. The wire for renewing the fences to the south and west of the allotment.
2. A composting toilet for use by all tenants.
3. Chippings for the car park to cover existing pot holes.
4. An easy access gate that can be utilised by those who are less abled.

N.B. the numbering is in order of importance. If funds are not available for any item, The remaining items will be deferred and a report will be brought back to the next available meeting.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council proceed with rectifying the front gate to the track that has been damaged beyond repair.

AL8/22. Update from Full Council

The Clerk updated members of the committee on previous discussions of Full Council. Discussion took place on:

- Allotment Rent – The possibility of a rent review
- Bonfires – Whether or not to ban these in light of complaints and the Council's climate action agenda
- Track – A member update and then discussion on the current state of negotiations with the land owner.

The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. Bonfires be banned from the allotments, all year round, subject to the Council providing a large composter for tenants as a replacement. BBQ's to still be permitted.
2. The Council proceed with setting up an SLA with the land owner of the track to ensure annual timely maintenance.
3. A rent review of allotment rents to take place within the next 6 months. The Clerk is to benchmark the rent charges against other rural parishes in the local vicinity and bring a report back to both Committee and Council.
4. The top field be ploughed in a small section in anticipation of an addition 8 new allotments to reduce the rent rise required overall.

The meeting was closed at 8:37pm

Chair's Signature

Date