

MARYPORT TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Committee held on Monday 27 March 2017 in the Council Chambers, Town Hall, Maryport at 7.00pm.

Present

Councillor S Ashworth	Councillor B Carter
Councillor G Hampson	Councillor Mrs A Kendall
Councillor P Kendall	Councillor Mrs C McCarron Holmes
Councillor W Pegram (Chairman)	Councillor Mrs L Radcliffe
Councillor Ms S Stamper	Councillor Ms C Tindall
Councillor I Tyson	Councillor L Williamson
Councillor Mrs J Wood	Councillor M Wood

In Attendance

Mr P Bramley (Clerk)
Mrs L Douglas (Clerk)

32/16 Apologies for Absence

None Received.

33/16 Declarations of Interest

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor P Kendall, Item 7(1), Personal. Councillor Kendall left the room for the rest of the meeting.

34/16 Requests for Dispensations

None received.

35/16 Minutes of Meeting held on 23 January 2017

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Allotment Committee held on 23 January 2017 be confirmed as a correct record & signed by the Chairman.

36/16 Correspondence

Resolved that correspondence be noted & that the request received from Mrs M Stewardson to keep a pony on Plot 30, Sandy Lonning be not agreed.

37/16 Allotment Provision

The Committee received the report of the Council's Working Party established to review the financial basis of the provision of allotment sites which had met on 27 March. It had noted the Council's Strategic Aim to support an Active Maryport through provision of allotments. It had also considered, in the light of this policy, whether it was reasonable to expect that all Maryport Council Tax payers should subsidise the provision of allotments. It had taken into account in its deliberations that the Council has three sites, that it has plots of varying sizes which have been developed in that way over a period of time, that maintenance requirements are different for different sites & that rents are set on a standard basis irrespective of site or plot size. It had considered the level of rent charged, recent practice in changes in rents & practice in charges for allotments operated by other local councils in the district.

It was the Working Party's view that it was unreasonable to expect all Council Tax payers in Maryport to subsidise the provision of allotment plots for around 200 people. The Working Party believed that the Council should operate a policy where the annual running costs of its allotment sites were met by those wishing to use them.

It was the Working Party's view that it was unreasonable, given the above, to expect non-concessionary tenants to subsidise the provision of allotment plots for others. It was the Working Party's belief that the practice of awarding concessions was unnecessary, given the cost of operating a plot in comparison to the level of rent charged.

Resolved that:

- 1) The offer of a concession for a plot be removed with effect from 1 April 2018.
- 2) Rents continue to be based on a 'per plot' rate, irrespective of the size of plot & the site it is on.
- 3) The Council seek to phase in increases in rentals over a period of five years, such that after five years the cost of maintaining allotment plots is met in full by the rents collected.
- 4) The Council review the position in five years, with an objective of ensuring that allotment site maintenance costs continue to be fully met by rents collected.

38/16 Items for Next Agenda

None requested.

The meeting finished at 8.35 pm.

Signed

Chairman

Date