



# **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY 2016**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. P. Dillon (Chairman), K. Batley, Mrs. S. Daniells,  
W. Toovey and P. Woodall

**IN ATTENDANCE:** P. Carpenter and C. Penfold (Tenants Representatives)  
Mrs. L. Russell (Tenants Representative & Tenant  
Spokesperson)  
1 Tenant Spokesperson and 1 Tenant  
Sheila Green (Allotment Committee Clerk)

*The Meeting opened at 5.30pm*

### **30. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. D. Barnes and M. Lineham who had work commitments, Cllrs. S. Reynolds and Mrs. J. Warr who were on annual leave.

### **31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and/or Ordinary Interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda

Members and Officers should declare an interest by stating: -

- a) The item they have an interest in
- b) Whether it is an Ordinary Interest and the nature of the interest
- c) Whether it is also a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

They then need to re-declare their interest and the nature of the interest at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent. They should request that it be recorded in the Minutes that they will leave the meeting and will neither take part in discussion, nor vote on the item.

In accordance with good practice, individual forms were available to those Councillors present in order that they could personally record their interests - both Disclosable Pecuniary and Ordinary. These

forms should be returned to the Committee Clerk at the end of the meeting to enable all declarations of interest to be accurately recorded in the Minutes. Members were reminded that it is their responsibility to notify the Monitoring Officer of all Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, not already recorded on their Register of Interests Form, within 28 days.

**32. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**33. TO RESOLVE TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (STANDING ORDERS. 31.1) (CONTRACTUAL)**

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to move to confidential business.

**34. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM A TENANT REGARDING A FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST ANOTHER TENANT**

Confidential papers containing the nature of the complaint and a response from the tenants spokesperson, to whom the complaint was addressed, were distributed to Councillors. For the benefit of the non-voting members a precis of the content was given with the omission of the names of the tenants involved.

The Chairman advised Members that the dispute between the two tenants had been long running and that he and the Committee Clerk had previously spoken to both parties on an individual basis to try and resolve the issues which now appeared to have escalated.

The complaint detailed the sender's serious allegations over the behavior and actions of another tenant. It was suggested that what was alleged was down to interpretation and the Council cannot dictate discussion. A Member drew attention to the point that the accusations were supposition and there was in fact no evidence or witnesses to substantiate the claims made therefore the allegations could not be proven. The Chairman said the Sub-Committee needed to try and find a solution as to how the two tenants could co-exist going forward and which would be fair to both parties.

One of the key factors is that the tenants involved have neighbouring plots. A proposal was put forward that both tenants should give up their adjoining plots and be re-located to another part of the allotment so in theory they would no longer have cause to meet or communicate. The Chairman asked the spokespersons if they thought this would be an acceptable and workable proposal to both tenants, and both agreed this would be a fair solution.

The Allotments Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** this proposal and the Committee Clerk will make arrangements for this action to be undertaken.

The Chairman said he hoped that this would now be the end of the dispute and that both parties could mutually agree to co-exist; any further disruption could result in the termination of contracts of one or both parties from the allotments. It was suggested that if any further incidents occurred that a record should be kept and witnesses identified, however, this must not turn into a "witch-hunt" as this too will not be tolerated.

***The Meeting closed at 6.01pm***