



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2014

PRESENT: Cllrs. P. Dillon (Chairman), J. Brooks and W. Toovey

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. P. Carpenter, Mr. C. Penfold and Mrs. L. Russell (Tenants
Representatives)
Sheila Green (Committee Clerk)

The Meeting opened at 4.00pm

29. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. S. Reynolds and Mrs. J. Warr.

30. 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.

31. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

32. TO CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM A TENANT REGARDING THE RENTAL INCREASES FOR 2014/15

For clarification the Chairman asked the Committee Clerk to read out the report that had been previously circulated and then address each point individually.

1. That the tenant considered the increase to be illegal as 12 months' notice had not been given.

The Committee Clerk referred to Min. 8, 11th June 2013 which states that the Sub-Committee resolved at that time, that a rental increase would be applied in October 2014/15 and that the tenant was present at that meeting as a Tenant Representative. The actual increase amounts were determined at the Sub-Committee Meeting held on 5th November 2013, Min. 34 refers. It was also noted that there was no legal requirement to give 12 months' notice even though this had been the case.

2. That the tenant disagreed on the need for a rent increase and that the rents were not comparable with neighbouring allotments.

The Committee Clerk reported that the annual income generated from rents was approximately £1,600.00 and that the expenditure was £3,500.00 with another 6 months to run, when that figure was calculated. Comparable rents had been discussed with the Tenants Representatives at the meeting on 11th November 2014, Min. 20 refers, and with their agreement it was decided that further discussion as to how rents were calculated for 2015/16 would be an Agenda item for the next Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting.

3. That the percentage increase was too high.

The increase applied for 2014/15 was £1.00 for a small plot, £2.00 for a medium plot and £3.00 for a large plot. The Committee Clerk had sent a letter to all tenants on the 26th October 2014 requesting that any objections to the rent increase be put in writing to her, but she had not received any response. It was also noted that this was the first increase since 2010.

After discussion the Tenants Representatives and the Sub-Committee Members all **AGREED** that the increase was fair and justified and the Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Environment & Leisure Committee that the increase for 2014/15 remain in place and that the tenant be informed of the decision.

The Meeting closed at 4.30pm