

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS SUB-COMMITTEE OF
BEAUMARIS TOWN COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 31 OCTOBER 2016 AT 7.30 PM IN THE TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: The Deputy Mayor Councillor F R Carr
Councillor C M Brimecombe
Councillor J Carr
Councillor D W Gallichan
Councillor R J Parry
Mrs J Anker
Mrs V Greveson

The Town Clerk was in attendance

APOLOGIES: The Town Mayor Councillor G Evans Jones
Councillor B L Kotkowicz
Councillor S Zalot

The Deputy Mayor took the Chair

1.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

2.0 TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Councillor R J Parry be Chairman for the forthcoming year

Councillor Parry took the Chair and thanked the Committee for electing him

3.0 TO ELECT A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR

It was proposed, seconded and carried unanimously that Councillor J Carr be Deputy Chairman for the forthcoming year.

4.0 UPDATE OF TENANCY AGREEMENTS

4.1 Mrs Anker said there were 62 allotment holders at present, two of those were leaving and the plots were being offered to the people at the top of the present waiting list. In addition, one tenant was moving from his plot to another one because of the severe Hogweed problem. The person concerned has an allergy to Hogweed, and spent three days in hospital earlier in the year as a result of contact with the plant. He was now being given a different half plot, whereupon he will be treated as a new plot holder and given three months to put the allotment in order.

4.2 There was a discussion concerning Hogweed on the allotments. A working party had made an assessment of all plots and not found any Giant Hogweed – the most dangerous species. Other Hogweed species had been found and these had been dead-headed. In relation to the plot being vacated, the new owner was aware of the history and did not have an allergy to Hogweed. The majority of plots are in excellent condition but three tenants have received warning letters. One of these related to a new half plot where tenants had dug it over with a JCB but then not carried out any further work during the season. Another tenant had

been unwell and volunteers had cleaned up the plot so the tenant would have a final opportunity to work on the plot and keep it in good condition. The third tenant has responded saying he would work on his allotment during the half-term holiday, but doesn't seem to have done so. The situation with these three plots will continue to be monitored.

4.3 The Allotments Association reported that it had carried out an overall risk assessment for the allotments site. This was issued to all new plot holders. The assessment includes the need to look out for hazardous plants such as Hogweed which can cause blistering of the skin, and aconite which is highly poisonous. All Association members are now required to have insurance including Public Liability cover of £2m. The insurances cover the individual plots allocated to tenants but not the rest of the site, eg the pathways. In response to a question, the Town Clerk confirmed that general cover for the site was provided with Public Liability cover by the Town Council's insurers. It was stated that allotment holders did not need to join the Beaumaris Allotments Society and in such an event, tenants may not have insurance cover. It was suggested that a clause should be included in the agreement issued by the Town Council to require all allotment holders to hold Public Liability insurance.

4.4 The National Allotments Association has now drafted a number of new clauses which landlords should consider including in local tenancy agreements. These include matters relating to new Health & Safety legislation. It is now clear that no all-encompassing national agreement will be produced since requirements vary according to individual sites where allotments are located. The following two clauses were put forward for adding to the tenancy agreements issued by the Town Council:

- 1 *To carry out all activities on the allotment garden in accordance with the requirements of any relevant Health & Safety legislation, and to a standard required by the landlord or his agent (through their Health & Safety policies) and to keep the allotment garden reasonably free of hazards.*
- 2 *To hold insurance specified by the landlord from time to time and to produce on demand (at any time during the yearly tenancy) a valid certificate confirming the existence of the relevant cover.*

5.0 CONDITION OF ALLOTMENTS

As previously reported, just three plots have not been kept up to standard during the past season. A further plot needs additional drainage, and the new tenant has been given an extended period of six months in order to get this plot into suitable working order. Generally it was agreed that the allotments site was in a tidy condition, and members of the Allotments Association asked that it be minuted that the Association was grateful for the Town Council's support.