

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE,
EASTWOOD TOWN COUNCIL, HELD ON MONDAY, 6 JULY 2009 IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, EASTWOOD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Present: Cllr D Bagshaw, Cllr Hazel Charlesworth, Cllr R Charlesworth, Cllr Mrs J Forrest (ex officio), Cllr B Griffin, Cllr K Longdon (ex officio), Cllr C Robb, Cllr Ms R Robb (substitute for Cllr G Robb) and Cllr J Zalewski.

Also present: Cllr R Dodge and two members of the public.

LM 01/10 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr R Charlesworth be elected Chair of the Committee.

LM 02/10 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr B Griffin be elected Vice Chair of the Committee.

LM 03/10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs G Robb.

LM 04/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs D Bagshaw and B Griffin both declared personal interests in agenda item 7 – allotment update – in view of their position as allotment holders.

LM 05/10 NOTIFICATIONS OF LOBBYING

Cllr B Griffin advised that he had been lobbied in connection with agenda item number 7 – allotment update.

LM 06/10 GARDEN SERVICE – INTERIM REPORT

The Town Clerk (Designate) reported that 65 applicants had been approved for this year's garden service. As at 3 July 2009, 63 had received a first visit, 32 a second and 5 a third. In terms of the approved budget for this service (£7,350), the sum £2,725 had been committed which represented approximately 37% of the total budget.

Cllr Griffin reported on his monitoring of the service which, as he had said at the last Town Council meeting, continued to be very well received by those using it. He would endeavour to meet with the Council's contractor, Mr Nick Lamb, during the summer and then later in the autumn. He added that he was aware that such was the success of the garden service that other Town and Parish Councils in the Country were introducing, or considering the introduction of, similar schemes.

The interim position report was **NOTED**.

LM 07/10 ALLOTMENT UPDATE

The Town Clerk (Designate) reported that following recent turnover at the beginning of the current financial year waiting lists for the Council's two allotment sites now stood at 22 for Derby Road and 19 for Dovecote Road. In these circumstances, he asked the Committee to consider whether it would be appropriate to suspend the waiting lists (as had been done previously when there were lengthy waiting lists) and also consider the principle of whether the Council might wish to look into acquiring a third allotment site. He added that the projected clearing of some overgrown plots would be attended to in the near future. He also assured the Committee that, further to a question raised at the last Town Council meeting, the Town Council had not issued any advice to allotment holders on the issue of rats.

Members felt that suspending the lists in the current circumstances would be sensible and that before investigating the acquisition of a third site that it might be possible to look at a more informal approach of using gardens owned by older people, where such people might be content for them to be used in this way. It might be possible to pursue this matter through contacts established with the garden service referred to in the previous item.

On the question of overgrown plots, Councillors Griffin and Bagshaw agreed to monitor the situation at Dovecote Road and inform the Town Clerk of any plots where remedial action was required. Cllr Griffin also agreed to undertake an inventory on the position and state of the taps on the allotments and that if it emerged that any maintenance was required then quotes could be sought for this.

Following discussion it was **RESOLVED:-**

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the waiting lists for the two allotment sites be suspended until such time as the lists are reduced to ten persons on each list.
3. That appropriate action be taken to advise any allotment holders whose plots become overgrown of their responsibilities in this respect.
4. That quotes be obtained for the maintenance of taps on the allotment sites should this prove necessary.
5. That action be taken to see if it is possible to use gardens owned by older people in the town for additional allotment purposes.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked Members and members of the public present for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.30 pm.