

NORMANTON TOWN COUNCIL



MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 1.00pm at Normanton Town Hall

Present: Councillor M Jennings
Councillor B Mayne
Councillor P Mayne – Chairman
Councillor C Parsons
Councillor M Rowley

Donna Johnston – Town Clerk & RFO

Absent: Councillor C Appleyard
Councillor P Marchant
Councillor T Morgan
Councillor A Samuels – Vice Chairman
Councillor R Seal

052. To receive apologies for absence.

RESOLVED that members apologies for their inability to attend be received on behalf of Councillors P Marchant and T Morgan.

053. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

There were no interests declared.

054. To exclude the press and public in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

RESOLVED that the appeal against eviction be considered in private at the request of the tenant.

055. To consider an appeal against eviction from tenant B9184A0B.

Tenant B9184A0B submitted an appeal against their eviction, citing challenging personal circumstances in recent months.

Members carefully considered the tenant's situation and reviewed the tenancy history, which indicated ongoing issues with the plot's condition and persistent weed overgrowth spanning several years.

It was noted that the tenant had not informed the Allotments Committee of their personal circumstances until after the eviction notice was issued, and no contact or improvements were made following the written warning.

As an experienced gardener, the tenant is expected to maintain the plot in reasonable condition. The current poor state of the allotment cannot solely be attributed to recent absences.

Given the tenant's longstanding tenancy and difficult personal circumstances, Members agreed to grant an extension until 31st March 2025, providing the tenant additional time to bring the plot up to the required standard for the upcoming season.

The tenant will be advised to carry out the following actions:

- Remove all waste from the plot, including the bath, windows, glass, scrap metal, and plastics.
- Strim down the weeds at the rear of the plot.
- Fully remove the unauthorised breeze block structure and any resulting waste.
- Remove the carpet currently used as a weed suppressant.
- Ensure the plot is tidied and prepared for the new season.

The plot will be re-inspected after 1st April 2025. If it is still in poor condition, the eviction notice will be re-issued.

RESOLVED that the eviction notice is withdrawn to allow the tenant additional time to complete the identified works.

056. To appoint three members to an Appeal Sub Committee with delegated authority to continue handling the complaint if required.

RESOLVED that Councillor E Blezard, Councillor J Pritchard and Councillor P Sampson be appointed to the Appeal Sub Committee.

057. To appoint the Chairman of the Appeal Sub Committee from the appointed members.

RESOLVED that Councillor J Pritchard be appointed as Chairman of the Appeal Sub Committee.

058. To consider if an independent person should be appointed to the Appeal Sub Committee as an independent impartial arbitrator.

There would not be an independent person appointed at this stage.

In the absence of any further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.