

Romsey Town Council Allotments Management Committee

Minutes of the meeting held at 06:30pm on the **22nd October 2024** at the Court Room, Romsey Town Hall, Romsey.

Those present: Mr Mike Nobbs, Mr Chris Davies, Mr John Waterman, Mrs Eleanor Vamplew, Cllr Colin Burgess, Mr Roger House, Mrs Clementine Kingstone.

Apologies: Mrs Lisa Fallowfield, Mr Elvin Mullinger.

10.1 The Minutes of the last meeting on 28th August 24, were discussed regarding a correction made on 25th September indicating a revision to clause 8.2.1.

Any further matters arising will be discussed under various headings.

10.2 Correspondence:

10.2.1 CD has been in correspondence with The Studio Romsey to arrange the printing of a rules board which he has purchased on behalf of the committee.

10.2.2 CB has been approached by an online education provider on behalf of one of their students. They asked if the Town Council could include in their website, the student's reference guide for allotments. Unfortunately, it included a link which promoted a company selling garden sheds. Promotional links conflict with local authority guidelines on advertising. The guide will therefore need to be amended to exclude any links promoting goods and services before it can be published.

10.2.3 It has come to light that there appeared to be some anomaly on how plot 99 was re-let last year 2023. It would appear to have changed hands from 2021/22 without passing through the plot secretary.

10.2.4 Correspondence has been received from plot 109 indicating the intention to vacate.

10.3 Finance: The accounts are appended to the rear of these minutes. Expenditure this last year has been £1968 and income from rents and sales has been £3715 leaving a surplus of £1747.00 with an earmarked reserve of £7972.

10.4 Allotments:

Although not present on the evening, prior to meeting EM forwarded a list of the 'Allotment plot lettings update'. Unfortunately, this year, there has been a high movement & turnaround of plots with 26 tenancies being vacated at some stage, of these: -

10.4.1 15 plots have resigned and been re-let.

10.4.2 There are currently 8 vacant plots.

10.4.3 Five plots, numbers 16, 45, 91, 98 and 100 have been terminated after being given notice. These plots have shown a poor disregard to achieving the required levels of

cultivation of 75%. However, plot 16 as mentioned previously is currently under appeal to be reviewed after 6 months.

10.4.4 No further improvement required notices have been issued since August 24.

10.5 Distribution Centre:

The shop is open to tenants when a committee member is present on site.

10.6 Councillor's Report:

Defibrillator: We are currently waiting on Mr James Lafeatty, RTC buildings manager for results of his investigations regarding the installation a wind/ solar powered defibrillator unit at the allotments.

Meeting to be arranged with Kings Chase committee regarding an 'Allotment Portal' to clarify which plot payments have been made, or not, as some issues have been experienced with non-payers on both sites.

10.7 AOB:

10.7.1 The required level of plot cultivation was discussed. Some committee members consider that 65 to 70 % would be more appropriate particularly over the winter months whereas the majority feel it should remain at 75%.

10.7.2 James Lafeatty, the buildings manager, has requested that water meter readings be taken once a month in the period the water is switched on.

10.7.3. Vermin: All members present remarked at the current high levels of rats on site affecting lots of crops with loss and damage. It was agreed that the committee would purchase a further 2 electronic traps to try to alleviate the issues.

the meeting closed at 07:20pm.

Chris Davies

Committee Secretary

Date ... **21/11/24**

Mike Nobbs

Chairman

Next meeting is to be held on Wednesday 27th November 2024, 7:30pm at the mayor's parlour, Romsey Town Hall.

ROMSEY TOWN COUNCIL ALLOTMENT ACCOUNT

Statement of Income and Expenditure

01.10.2023 to 30.09.2024

Income	£	Expenditure	£	Budget £
Rents	3650.00	Broadland's Rent	1100.00	1100
Distribution Centre Sales	65.00	Southern Water	598.00	750
		NSALG	110.00	55
		Card Reader Charges		0
		Dist Centre Stock	33.00	180
		Stationery/Post/Misc		0
		Maintnenace/Equip	127.00	150
		Hedge Cutting		220
		Rat Poison/Pest Control		250
		Skip Hire		
		Sundries		
Totals	<u>3715.00</u>		<u>1968.00</u>	<u>2705</u>
Income less Expenditure	1747.00			
Earmarked Reserve (EAR)	<u>7972</u>			
	<u>7972</u>			