

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL
OFFICES, 44 OLD STREET, CLEVEDON, ON MONDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2011
AT 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllr C Wring (Committee Chairman) Cllr J Middleton (Vice Chairman)
Cllrs N Pennycott, M Hime, L Knott & C Arnold
Committee Clerk – S Howard
Tenants Reps: D Beynon (WA), N Foster (CEM), W Rowlinson (ML),
P Cornock (CH), A Stephens (CH), D Holladay (VR), K Santo (ML) &
R Cheek (HA)

Tenants: 18

BEST GARDEN AWARDS 2011

The Chairman of the Council, Cllr Chris Blades presented the Best Garden awards, a list of winners is attached to these minutes. A photograph was taken of the prize winners to be included in the next Council Newsletter in the local paper.

Speaker

Ms Ann Freeman gave a talk on weeds and how we can make use of them. There was a short question and answer session; Cllr Wring thanked Ms Freeman for an interesting talk.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Cllr C Hall, Cllr P McNeill, & the tenant of CH125.

MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL TENANTS' MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Tenants meeting held on 11 October 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Cllr Carole Wring, Chairman of the Allotments Committee welcomed tenants, visitors and Councillors to the meeting and a special welcome to the Speaker Ann Freeman, for the evening.

Cllr Wring felt that this year had brought new challenges as the weather has been so mixed and the plants were confused as they have recently provided a second flush of produce. It was also explained that the Council are carrying out improvements to all sites within our budget and all items are planned in advance.

There have been some neglected gardens over the year and Cllr Wring advised that we must encourage tenants to cultivate their gardens or they must terminate their tenancy due to our waiting list. The Committee is also splitting gardens where possible so that we can offer more gardens. As many tenants may know the Committee took the decision to close the waiting list. Many other Council's are doing the same as this.

The Chairman advised that we had a good showing at the Clevedon Flower show and she encouraged more tenants to put in an entry at next year's show.

A huge thank you was given to the tenants that had passed away this year and condolences were made to the tenant's families.

The Chairman thanked the Committee Clerk for going the extra mile in her role and thanks too for the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for all that they do to support the Committee.

REPORTS OF THE COUNCILLOR SITE REPRESENTATIVES

CHURCH HILL

Cllr Knott advised that it has been a fantastic year on site and expressed her thanks to the Tenant Reps and also welcomed Cllr Hime to the Committee. Cllr Knott also felt that the soil is in such good condition too.

Some work we have planned is to resolve the central path and edge this with wood and also to make a car parking area to assist in the winter months. She was pleased to see the scarecrow again this year, but felt it looked remarkably like one of the Councillors! There was also a report to allotment watch regarding some thefts of gooseberries and blackcurrants on site. The Tenant Reps assisted with keeping watch only to find that the culprits were blackbirds!

MOOR LANE

Cllr Middleton thanked the two Tenant Reps, of which without their continued hard work and support would make it very difficult on site, they have both been an enormous help to the tenants, some of which are becoming older now and have had to terminate their gardens. The Reps have been a wonderful support to Cllr Middleton.

CEMETERY

Cllr Arnold advised that he has only recently transferred from Victoria Road allotments to Cemetery. The site is larger than Victoria Road and is now facing new challenges, especially with the badgers on site! Cllr Arnold is working with the Tenant Rep and thanked him for his hard work and his support that he has given to the Tenants on site.

HIGHDALE AVENUE

Cllr Pennycott explained that he enjoyed seeing residents leaning over the boundary wall to look at the allotment gardens. The Fire Brigade wall has now been repaired and the fruits this year on the gardens have been excellent. Cllr Pennycott thanked the Tenant Rep for all of his support to the tenants and to Cllr Pennycott.

WESTBOURNE AVENUE

Cllr Pennycott felt that this allotment site is excellent. It reminds him of a film he once saw, 'God's little acre', and it's a credit to the Tenant Rep and Cllr Pennycott thanked the Rep for his hard work and support on site.

VICTORIA ROAD

In Cllr McNeill's absence, the Tenant Rep provided the report. She advised that there have been very few problems on site this year, apart from some wind damage to crops and the resident crows and pigeons.

ALLOTMENT ADMINISTRATION

The Chairman advised that it would be wonderful if tenants were to make more use of our Clevedon Allotments website – www.clevedon-allotments.co.uk or via the Clevedon Town Council website. The previous Cemetery Tenant Rep has produced a website that has an interactive forum for tenants to share tips, ask questions etc.

Fruit trees on gardens.

The Chairman advised that we cannot permit the planting of fruit tree on the allotment gardens. This is a breach of the tenancy agreement and can be a costly exercise if a tree needs to be removed. If tenants would like to put fruit tree in a pot this is fine, but it must not be a permanent item.

Shed Numbering.

The Tenant Rep on Moor Lane suggested the idea of having the tenants number their sheds as this would assist with garden numbering especially round judging time each year. The Chairman encouraged more tenants who have sheds to do the same.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL, COUNCILLOR CHRIS BLADES

The Chairman advised that the support of the tenant reps, although voluntary, was wonderful and he gave his full thanks to them for everything they have done for their sites.

He commented that he had been forced to judge all the allotment gardens and even went to the Clevedon Flower Show. The Chairman declared that he had really enjoyed all the allotment gardens, but especially Westbourne Avenue. It has opened his eyes and brought a smile to his face, even when he was judging in the rain!

ALLOTMENT WATCH

The Chairman advised that the Committee Clerk has taken over the role from the previous Tenant Rep on Highdale Avenue. A reminder was given to each tenant to ensure that any reports for Allotment Watch are given to the Committee Clerk as well as the local Police. If a record is kept of all incidents, then this could assist with any patterns that may arise.

TENANTS' BUSINESS

Cllr Pennycott advised that all tenants' with sheds should install guttering, if not already done so, to collect the 'free rain'. This will help bring down the water bills too. The Committee Clerk also advised that some tenants have collected the 'free guttering' that was made available via the Allotment newsletter and that she hoped to obtain some more if tenants were interested.

The Tenant Rep for Cemetery asked if the trees on this site will be pollarded? Cllr Middleton and the Town Clerk advised that they would look into this matter and contact Dignity who manage the trees.

Action – Cllr Middleton and the Town Clerk

A tenant from Church Hill asked if another padlock would be purchased for the gate as currently dog walkers are coming onto site. It was agreed that the Council would provide a new padlock with a combination lock and the number would be given to tenants so they can gain access on site.

Action – Committee Clerk

The Committee Clerk asked if tenants read the notice boards on site? Those at the Annual Tenant's meeting advised that they did. The Committee Clerk advised that more regular news items would be posted onto boards to keep tenants up to date or aware of things that the Committee were doing.

Action – Committee Clerk

The Committee Chairman thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN.....

Meeting finished at 9.00pm.

DATE:

CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL
ANNUAL ALLOTMENT TENANTS' MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2011

BEST GARDEN AWARDS 2011

ORDER OF PRESENTATION

COMMEMORATIVE COASTERS

FOR LAST YEARS' WINNERS, REPLACING THE CUPS THEY HAVE RETURNED

1 ST	CEM158	MR N FOSTER
2 ND	CH129	MR D HOROBIN
3 RD	ML 37	MRS S ELLIOTT

HIGHLY COMMENDED AWARDS: (Rosettes & Vouchers)

CEMETERY	CEM154 Ms Daniels &	CEM142 Mr Smith
CHURCH HILL	CH113 Mr Wait &	CH126 Mr Vickers
MOOR LANE	ML37 Ms Elliott &	ML17 Mr & Mrs Brown
HIGHDALE AVE	HA65 Ms Gray &	HA66 Mr Webber
VICTORIA ROAD	VR69 Mrs Butler &	VR71 Mrs Reed
WESTBOURNE AVE	WA94 Mr Proud &	WA97 Mr Jermain

BEST GARDEN ON SITE: (Rosettes & Voucher)

MOOR LANE	ML14	Mr Dunn
VICTORIA ROAD	VR 82A	Mrs Tossell
HIGHDALE AVE	HA59A	Ms Hanley
WESTBOURNE AVE	WA96	Mr Beynon

OVERALL WINNERS: (Cup/Rosette & Voucher)

THIRD PRIZE: Mr Baker (WA89)

SECOND PRIZE: Mrs C Price (CEM155)

FIRST PRIZE: Mr A Stephens (CH128)