

HESSLE TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
Large Front Room
Hessle Town Hall
Tuesday 13th June 2023
Minutes

Members present: Councillors M Sutton, P Toogood & P Davison

Advisory Member (Non-voting) present: Ms G White (HDGA)

Also present: 2 residents from Tower Hill Mews.

Clerk: Joanna Render

Apologies: Cllr J Bovill & Cllr Langdale

Cllr Davison as Chair of the Council took the first item and then remained for the meeting to allow it to be quorate.

134154 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN – Nominations were invited for the election of Chairman of the Environment & Open Spaces Committee for the current municipal year.
(Davison/Toogood)

Resolved – To nominate Cllr Sutton as Chair of the Environment & Open Spaces Committee for the current municipal year.

134155 ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE – Cllr Sutton thanked the Committee and duly took the Chair.

134156 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN – Nominations were invited for the election of Vice-Chairman of the Environment & Open Spaces committee for the current municipal year.
(Davison/Sutton)

Resolved – To nominate Cllr Toogood as Vice Chair of the Environment & Open Spaces committee for the current municipal year.

134157 DECLARATION ON INTEREST: The Chairman read out the following – “Members must declare their pecuniary or non-pecuniary interests in items at this meeting – rather than personal and prejudicial interests – and ensure that they act appropriately”.

None received.

134158 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th April 2023 and authorise the Chairman to sign.

The minutes from the meeting held on the 11th April 2023 were held over to the next meeting as no members were present from the April meeting to agree accuracy.

Item 13(d) was moved to this point in the meeting.

134159 Committee to discuss and make a decision on the request for work to trees on the park near to Tower Hill Mews.

Residents from 2 properties affected by trees on the Tower Hill Memorial Park attended the meeting. The resident from number 15 explained that one of the trees is overhanging her garden and requires some attention. The resident from 19 would like one of the larger trees reducing to allow more sunlight into her garden.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the best way forward was to carry out a site visit to the two properties.

The Chair thanked the residents for attending the meeting.

(Sutton/Toogood)

Resolved – To undertake a site visit to both 15 and 19 Tower Hill Mews to establish a better picture of the issues relating to the trees and bring any recommendation to a future meeting to allow a decision to be made. The Clerk will liaise with the Councillors and residents for a suitable date/ time to carry out the visit.

134160 CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS: To receive such communications as the Chairman may wish to lay before the committee.

None received.

134161 ALLOTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE: Committee to note that the Allotment Income and Expenditure figures as at 31st May 2023.

(Sutton/Davison)

Resolved – The Allotment Income and Expenditure report as at 31st May 2023 was noted.

134162 BOOTHFERRY ROAD, FERRIBY ROAD AND TOWER HILL ALLOTMENT SITES:

- a) Allotment Warden's Report: To note the report for May/June. Noted.
- b) Inspection of Plots: To note the attached site visits from 17/4/23 & 16/5/23. Noted.
- c) Hessle & District Gardeners Association: To receive and discuss the report. Ms White, from the HDGA went through the report items.
 - i. The gate to the Boothferry Road site is being left open and unlocked by some tenants – and following further break-ins on site it has been suggested that the current lock be replaced with a high security lock with keys- keys would be given by the Council under a deposit scheme. The key can only be removed once the lock has been locked. A similar system is in place by Hull CC. Following discussion, it was agreed that that this system can have its faults in that keys can become stuck in the lock, causing more problems and potentially keys would not be returned by evicted tenants. It was suggested that a more official and permanent warning sign be placed on the gate advising that it must be closed and locked at all times and of the potential penalties of leaving the gate open/ unlocked. All agreed that this was a better option, and the Clerk will investigate cost.
 - ii. Padlock code change request – the Clerk advised that in spite attempts to obtain email contacts for all plot holders she does not have them, so an early change to the combination would need to be advised by letter, this would be costly, and time consuming for the clerk and would not prevent the number from immediately being given out to non-tenants, putting us

back into the same position. She advised that she has contacted the police to try and establish who had given the combination to the youths found on site, but to date had heard nothing. Committee agreed that there was no benefit the changing the combination at this time.

- iii. Whistles have been given to vulnerable tenants without mobile phones by a member of the HDGA. Noted.
- iv. One tenant has organised a series of sessions for children with the aim to get families with children involved in environmental issues and activities. The next session will be in August – making seed trays, which the children can enter at the HDGA show on the 2nd September. This was agreed to be a lovely idea and the Committee thanked the tenant. Noted.
- v. Plot BR67 – the Clerk advised that this is being dealt with through the ‘messy’ letter system. Noted.

The Chair thanked Ms White for her report.

- d) Plots: 1 vacant plot, which has been offered. Noted.
- e) Crime: 1 report of ASB – youths on site. Noted.
- f) Invoices: None outstanding. Noted.

134163 ALLOTMENT ISSUES: Committee to consider the following issues.

a) Boothferry Road Allotment –

- i. Tenant continues to kill vermin on site and dispose of carcasses. Noted.
- ii. There is continued concern that the gate is being left open/unlocked, and or the combination to the gate is being given out to non-tenants. The Clerk has been asked to change the gate combination but has not done so due to the cost of this in time and postage. Committee to consider if they wish the Clerk to change the combination number to the gate lock. Clerk to provide further information. This item was dealt with under 134162 c(ii)
- iii. Committee to note that Plot 81 has been turned over to an Allotment Community Orchard – signage to be placed on site, and the warden will keep the plot trimmed. Noted.
- iv. Committee to note that the ERYC Pest Control wish to carry out a site inspection due to reports of rats in the area. Clerk to provide any further information. The Clerk advised that she had that morning met with the Inspector. He does not have any real concerns at present although there may be issues in the Winter months. He has suggested that those plots with long grass near to fence adjacent to the School are kept trimmed. He has sent a quote through of £373 + VAT for 8 visits over a year. Committee agreed that this could be looked at nearer to the winter period. The Clerk will refer to a meeting later in the year.

b) Ferriby Road site

- i) Committee to consider the provision of additional resource for the Allotment warden to enable the cutting back the Ferriby Road hedge safely. Clerk to speak to this item. The Clerk advised that the warden cannot safely cut the hedge on Ferriby road due to the height and slope of the site. She will obtain quotes for the work and bring to a future meeting.

134164 TREE COMMITTEE / TREES & ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

- a) Committee to note the report of the Tree Visit carried out on the 18/4/23 and during May – to note that May was not an accompanied visit due to the retirement of the ERYC Tree Officer. Noted.
- b) Committee to note that a new ERYC Tree Officer has been appointed and is no longer able to offer accompanied visits due to staffing. Committee to discuss and consider how future applications are to be dealt with.
Cllr Sutton suggested that applications for tree works are dealt with as currently and that she will raise the accompanied visits with the Ward councillors. Noted.
- c) Committee to note the email from the ERYC Tree Officer regarding unauthorised works on protected trees. Currently awaiting an update. The Clerk advised that she had no further update on these works at present. Noted.
- d) Committee to note that all applications for works on protected trees or those within a Conservation area are displayed on the Town Council website. Noted.
- e) Committee to note that following emails from residents, the Clerk has requested trees be planted by ERYC, one near to 165 Beverley Road and two on Springville Ave. Trees here were removed due to disease and vandalism. ERYC Forestry Supervisor has confirmed that these will be added to the planting list for next season. Noted.

134165 LITTER BINS REQUESTS - none for consideration

134166 TUBS/ FLORAL DISPLAYS –Committee to consider the quote from Marjoram Nurseries for the filling of the tubs and hanging baskets for Summer 2023.

(Sutton/Davison)

Resolved – to accept the quote from Marjoram Nurseries of £3344.82 for the Summer filing of the tubs and baskets.

134167 TOWER HILL MEMORIAL PARK

- a) Committee to note that the play area is now complete. Noted.
- b) Committee to note that the poles for the CCTV have been installed in the park and the CCTV installation company have been instructed to go ahead. Noted.
- c) Committee to note the email from a resident regarding the ASB in the park. Clerk to provide any update. The Clerk advised that she continues to advise residents to report any issues through 101 and has asked that she inform neighbours to do the same. The Clerk continues to liaise with the Local Policing Team.

134168 MEMORIAL BENCH – NO further update with regards to the location. Noted.

134169 JENNY BROUGH LANE BENCH – Clerk or Cllr Bovill to provide an update. Cllr Sutton asked if Cllr Bovill might be able to provide an update for the next meeting.

134170 TRANBY GATE – Please see email from one of the friends. Committee to consider any suggestions. The site is having issues with the dumping of garden waste, sometimes containing tree roots which is a problem. The Clerk updated committee that she has advised them to put signage up, politely asking that no dumping of waste is carried out. Noted.