



Broadstairs & St Peter's Town Council

ALLOTMENTS AND LAND COMMITTEE MINUTES Monday 11th March 2025

Present: Cllrs J Bright (Chair), J Hobson, E Orhan, K Pressland, S Roberts
Deputy Town Clerk: Julie Belsey

95. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

The Chairman reminded those present of the right to record, film or broadcast any meetings of the Council, committees and subcommittees is established following the Local Government Audit and Accountability Act 2014.

96. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Not in attendance: Cllr J Nichols

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

98. MINUTES

RESOLVED to RECEIVE and APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st October 2024

99. MATTERS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THE AGENDA
None

100. QUESTIONS AND/OR OBSERVATIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE OF BROADSTAIRS & ST PETER'S
None

101. BUDGET

The Committee received the budget to date and were given updates of further anticipated monies to be spent prior to year end.

102. NORMAN ROAD & NASH GARDENS ALLOTMENTS

A non-recyclable waste collection took place at the beginning of February with 2.5 van loads removed in total. This is an additional service we provide to the allotment holders which is greatly appreciated each year.

Following our tree surveys carried out in October, Thanet Council's Open Spaces have undertaken the works highlighted in the survey for the trees that line the allotments in St Peter's Recreation Ground.

Vacant allotments have been allocated to people on the waiting lists – two at Norman Road and one at Nash Gardens.

On the recent inspection, it was noted that a few sites are now incorporating small ponds, which encourages additional wildlife to our sites.

103. CULMERS AMENITY LAND

The Civic and Support Officer has sent a proposal to CT10 Charities, who are the landlords of Culmers. This is to incorporate a wildlife meadow and two wild cherry trees to the site. The Civic and Support Officer will take this to the Environment Committee with full information for the Committee should CT10 Charities give their consent.

There is still no update on the land next to 5 Beach Mews, which is currently with the Planning Inspectorate following appeal.

104. MOCKETT'S WOOD

The Woodland Officer has been appointed and will start on 1st April. The Committee were updated with the new post holder's qualifications and experience.

The Woodland Officer has been employed to implement the Management Plan for the woods, which includes onsite work, sourcing materials and plants, and helping/guiding the Volunteers with this implementation, large works include the sourcing of materials and the making of the new circular path in the woods, which is a huge project at 480m. They will also engage additional volunteers as required.

Any works which require additional equipment/licences, will be undertaken by contractors as per our normal procedures (i.e. tree works, works requiring use of equipment such as chainsaws etc). The Woodland Officer will organise this in conjunction with the Deputy Town Clerk.

The new post holder has been updated with the Management Plan, previous tree surveys and sooty bark disease.

i) The Committee received and noted the slides received from the Volunteer Tree Warden on sooty bark disease.

105. PIERREMONT HALL GROUNDS

Boxgreen continue with the ground's maintenance of the Pierremont Hall Grounds. The bulbs in the woodland area are now appearing again, and mulching has taken place within all of the beds and rockery.

106. GREEN SPACES CULTIVATED UNDER LICENCE FROM TDC

Our Gardeners have been concentrating on Balmoral Gardens, clearing, cutting back and pruning. They have had help from the Town Team, who also donated some bulbs and planted them up.

There is still clearance etc taking place within the area close to Lousia Bay, and this will continue through the year.

Plans for new planting to fill the gaps at the Balmoral borders are being put in place. The raised beds will continue to be a sensory garden, as originally planted. This area is also be thinned out, with any plants that have taken over, being reduced down, with any additional plants being used elsewhere.

The two terracotta pots located by Balmoral Gardens will be cleared and replanted by our Team.

Planting is still to take place at the circular bed at Pierremont, with ideas being looked at when our new gardener commences.

Cllr Pressland will speak to our Gardeners about adding additional bigger impact plants into all of the green spaces.

Our new Gardener will commence on 31st March. The Committee were updated with the new post holders experience.

There will be a need to purchase a new lawn mower which is more robust to take on the large areas of grass. This will be within the next few months.

The Deputy Town Clerk has approached TDC Waste & Recycling for an update for their future plans for the storage of the hand pushed dust carts, which are currently stored in the Louisa Bay Store. Due to the Town Council taking on more TDC Greenspaces, we will require space for our additional equipment, and the carts take up a lot of space. There has not been a response to date.

Long term, the Town Council will need to be able to provide more storage/work areas for the Gardeners (and Woodland Officer) as our equipment requirement increases.

107. RISK ASSESSEMENTS & INSPECTIONS

- i) The Committee received and noted the site inspection outcome reports for the allotments/Culmer's Amenity Land/Mockett's Wood.
- ii) The Committee received and noted the updated risk assessments for the allotments/Culmer's Amenity Land/Mockett's Wood/land under licence from TDC.

108. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

NJL Boxgreen were successful for the ground's maintenance contract to 31st March 2028. Due to timescales, this was approved at the Community Assets Committee meeting on 20th January 2025.

109. TREE WORKS

Following discussion regarding the two trees located at the Baird's Hill footpath, it was agreed to ask our Contractor for their opinion on the trees before making a decision.

110. FORWARD AGENDA ITEMS AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting: July/August TBC

Meeting Closed at 19.54
Deputy Town Clerk