

CERNE VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL
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Minutes of the Allotments Committee meeting held on 02nd September 2024 on site

Present: Cllrs L. Prowse, C. Crosbie, and K. Burghart
9 plot holders

1. Appointment of Chair

Cllr Burghart was proposed and duly elected Chair of the allotments committee.

2. Apologises for absence

All members were present.

3. Declarations of pecuniary and other interests

Cllr Burghart declared an interest in agenda item 9f.

4. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th March 24

These were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

5. Chairman's update

Cllr Burghart was excited and nervous of being the Chair. She wished to extend a massive gratitude of thanks to Mike Keating for all his hard work and endeavours over the past years.

6. Site inspection

An inspection had been carried out, and a few matters such as the gate latch, unkept edges and overgrown plots had been identified.

7. Plot availability

It was confirmed that 8 plots were now vacant.

8. Finance update

a. Income, expenditure and reserves

Income

Plots	£ 946.43
Precept	£ 200.00

Expenditure

Plots	£ 684.16
Precept	£ 11.98

Surplus

Plots	£ 262.27
Precept	£ 188.02

Reserves	£ 2201.68
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b. Precept request for 2025/26

It was agreed to request £200.00 from the Precept to cover public communal areas.

9. Items for discussion

a. Splitting of plots

It was agreed that (when available), larger plots would be split into smaller more manageable area.

b. Sizing of plots (for rental purposes)

It was agreed to resize plots Extra-large, large, medium and small.
A set price would be agreed in March 25.

c. Additional newsletter

All were in agreement that an autumn newsletter would be sent electronically in addition to further communications on matters such as allotments social and meetings.

d. New door for shed

The door was in need of replacing so this was agreed. It was also noted that the shed was frequently unlocked. One for the newsletter and the code.

e. Clearing of communal areas (use of reserves)

Many of the communal areas, such as green deposit area, shed and polytunnel site, along with external paths and hedges were in need of a clear out.

It was proposed to £600 from the reserves (40 hours), to bring these areas back to acceptability.

This was unanimously agreed by all, and to include at Full Council as reserves to be used.

f. Allotment Shop

Cllr Burghart suggested an allotment where goods could be sold at cost to plot holders.

It was confirmed this could include bulk buys and old products but would not be a trading or business set up.

Nor would produce be sold from the plots for personal gain.

Members thought that in principle this was a good.

10. General discussion period

It was confirmed that empty plots, once divided up, would be trimmed and covered.

All agreed that dogs loose in the allotments was a no go. Reports of a loose dog would result in a warning; a second report would lead to a final warning – a third report would produce a ban on all dogs.

Exterior edges would be tidying under the contractor, edges around the plots remain plot holders' responsibility.

Users of the strimmer's would be reminded that the batteries needed charging after use.

An annual ballot would be held for the use of the polytunnel

11. Items and date for next meeting

03rd March 2025

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 13.45pm.