

SALTFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held at Saltford Hall, Saltford
on Tuesday 30th July 2013 at 6.45 pm

PRESENT:

Councillors - Mathew Blankley (Chair), Kim Johnson (Vice-Chair), Harvey Haeberling, Duncan Hounsell, Rob King, Neil McKen, Kevin Reeves, Jill Williams and Reg Williams

Officer - Tricia Golinski

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 July 2013 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for inability to attend this meeting were received from Cllr Robert Taylor.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

4. PUBLIC TIME

There were 4 members of the public present.

Stewart Long discussed his correspondence with Curo about the allotment site, and said he would like clarity on the lease/licence, the options for grass cutting, and the rent.

Bleddyn Phillips queried whether Curo's proposal for giving priority to their own tenants would mean existing allotment tenants would lose their tenancies. He said that a quarter of the plots are not being worked this year and the weeds are affecting other plots.

Nigel Stoute asked from whom he would be renting an allotment, the Parish Council or Curo.

Stephen Fillingham queried whether Curo's proposal for giving priority to their own tenants would mean existing allotment tenants would lose their tenancies. He said that rubbish has accrued on the site and asked who is responsible for clearing it.

The Chair responded that Curo is proposing that Curo residents get priority on the allotments waiting list, not that any allotment tenants would have to leave their plots.

5. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made no announcements.

6. ALLOTMENT SITE LICENCE

The Council discussed the offer from Curo to licence the allotment site land to the Parish for £100 per annum, on condition that the Parish offer Curo residents the opportunity to rent plots when they become available.

Cllr Mathew Blankley noted that Curo's response to Stewart Long said that they would like the Parish Council to work towards at least 50% of the plots being let to Curo residents, they were happy to work in partnership to achieve this, and would help with publicity to their residents.

Cllr Reg Williams noted that it may be expensive to meet the terms of the licence in view of the condition of the site.

Cllr Kevin Reeves said that the Parish Council's priority is to the electorate of Saltford and the proposal to give an undefined priority to Curo residents may be a step too far.

Cllr Duncan Hounsell noted that the Parish Council has a duty to provide allotments where there is a demand, and that this issue needs resolving. He proposed a possible solution of alternating between two waiting lists, one of Saltford residents (including those already on the waiting list) and the other of Curo (Saltford) residents.

Cllr Mathew Blankley proposed asking Curo to contribute to the maintenance of the site, if they maintain their own allotment sites; or if not, asking allotment tenants to be responsible for the maintenance of the whole site.

It was agreed to find out whether Curo maintain their own sites.

Cllr Duncan Hounsell noted that the Parish Council had a duty to bring the site up to an acceptable standard to begin with, and it was agreed to obtain a quotation for clearance of the rubbish.

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Next Council meeting: 3 September 2013

Next Planning Committee meeting: 13 August 2013

Chairman.....

Date confirmed and signed.....