

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

**ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' ANNUAL
MEETING**

You are invited to attend the 20th **Allotment Holders' Forum** to be held at the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon, on **THURSDAY 10TH AUGUST 2023 at 7pm**

AGENDA

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Councillor Tom Sanderson

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive and note apologies for absence tendered to the Town Clerk.

3. MINUTES

To receive and approve the minutes of the Allotment Holders' Forum Meeting held on 17th August 2022 (attached).

4. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES TO THE WINNERS OF THE BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2023

To present the prizes for the Best Kept Allotment 2023:

1. Best variety of flowers
2. Best variety of crops
3. Most eco efficient plot
4. Best kept chickens
5. Best overall plot
6. Best newcomer

5. SITE REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS

To elect site representatives for the period 2022/2023. Nominations for each site to be confirmed on the night. Election will be by majority of votes cast at the meeting.

6. COUNCIL UPDATES

To receive updates on the following:

- Allotment inspections
- Clearing plots when tenants leave
- Allotment invoice 2023/24

7. **QUESTION TIME**

To receive any questions to the Council in connection with the allotments service provision

8. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

Date of next meeting August 2024

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENT HOLDERS' ANNUAL
MEETING

An Allotment Holders Forum was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Wednesday 17th August 2022.

Present: Councillor D Cole (Mayor), and Teresa Gilman (Amenities Officer)

In Attendance: 19 allotment holders

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mayor David Landon Cole welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the various representatives.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Brendon Searle and Hermien Turner Cain.

3. MINUTES

Copies of the Minutes of the Allotment Holders' Forum held on 28th August 2021 were available as hard copies at the meeting. It was

AGREED that the minutes were a correct record.

4. PRESENTATION OF PRIZES TO THE WINNERS OF THE BEST KEPT ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION 2022

The Mayor presented gardening vouchers to the winning tenants of the 2021 Best Kept Allotments competition.

Congratulations were expressed and prizes were awarded as follows in the form of gardening vouchers:

1. Best variety of flowers – HR31B Mr R Worgan
2. Best variety of crops – SB20B Mrs A Borowiec
3. Most eco efficient plot – PL64 Scott Dickerson
4. Best kept chickens – PL71 Mark Brickell
5. Best overall plot – SB20B Mrs A Borowiec

It was advised that winners of awards who were unable to attend would be notified and given the garden vouchers. The winner of the Best Overall Plot would be awarded with the trophy.

5. SITE REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS

The Amenities Officer advised of the current site representatives for each of the allotment sites, taking it in turn to confirm whether the representatives wished to stay on, or whether there were any alternative nominations.

The site reps from 2021/22 were noted as:

Primrose Lane – Scott Dickerson and Mark Brickell

Hartford Road – Andrew and Kerry Maltby

North Street – Annie Welsh and Brendon Searle

Sallowbush Road – No official site reps

The Amenities Officer said that anyone can contact her as well as or in place of the site reps.

6. COUNCIL UPDATES

To receive updates on the following:

- Avian flu
Confirmed cases in Huntingdonshire. [Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs \(Defra\)](#) has confirmed a number of cases of avian influenza (bird flu) in the wild bird population of Huntingdonshire, centred on the River Ouse.
The [UK Health Security Agency](#) has said that bird flu is primarily a disease of birds and the risk to the general public's health is very low. However, it is vital that people do not touch sick live birds or bird carcasses.
We therefore urge people to avoid touching any sick or dead wild birds, including bird droppings, in the district as a precaution. Anyone who has been in direct touching contact with visibly sick or dead birds should practice good hygiene by washing their hands immediately and follow NHS guidance .
Anyone who keeps poultry, captive birds or bird keepers should consider taking extra precautions, including keeping their birds indoors or taking appropriate steps to keep them separate from wild birds. It is important to be vigilant for any signs of disease - if you are concerned about your birds' health or suspect Avian Influenza, please contact your vet immediately.
For more information, please go to www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/birdflu or contact Huntingdonshire District Council Customer Services on 01480 388640.
- Allotment inspections
The Amenities Officer explained that allotment inspections are carried out once a month and non-cult letters or tidy letters are sent to those tenants that need them.
An allotment holder asked if two different allotment holders could have the shed from NS03A. The Amenities Officer explained that the plot had a tenant so they couldn't but the allotment holder said that no work had been done on the plot. The Amenities Officer was going to follow this up.

- Clearing plots when tenants leave
This is becoming an issue. Lots need to be cleared, skip prices are now a lot higher than the £195 quoted in the tenancy agreement
- Rents
Will probably go up next year due to increase in cost of clearing allotments

Plot size	Price 2021/2022	Price 2022/2023
Quarter Plot (2.5 pole)	£16.00	£17.00
Half Plot (5 pole)	£31.00	£32.50
Smaller Plot (7.5 pole)	£44.50	£46.50
Allotment Plot (10 pole)	£58.50	£61.00
Larger Plot (12 pole)	£74.50	£76.00

- Abusive behaviour
There had been cases of abusive behaviour towards Town Council staff that will not be tolerated. The tenancy agreement is going to be updated to reflect this.
- Padlocks
There had been a speight of padlock thefts from Sallowbush Road and Hartford Road. Padlocks are really expensive so measures would be looked into to stop the thefts.
Various allotment holders suggested putting signs on the gate and utilising the noticeboards at the allotments
- Amenities Officer maternity cover
The Town Council were recruiting for maternity cover for the Amenities Officer role. The Amenities Officer was going on maternity leave on 5th September so asked allotment holders to contact town.council@huntingdowntown.gov.uk and queries would be picked up.

7. QUESTION TIME

A question was asked if the green waste piles would ever be cleared at the allotments. There is rubbish on there which isn't just green waste. It was agreed that the site reps could put the rubbish back on the plots that were dumping on the green waste piles as long as they let the Amenities Officer know. The Amenities Officer would ask the Head Groundsman if the green waste piles could be properly cleared including the rubbish that is there.

A tenant asked about the rubbish on their plot that was there when they took it on. The Amenities Officer explained that it was the tenants responsible to take the rubbish away.

A tenant said that all the tenants were reading from different rules. The Amenities Officer explained that every plot holder had been reissued with a tenancy agreement in 2016 and this was the one that was sent to new tenants. It was agreed that the tenancy agreement would be uploaded to the website. The Mayor informed tenants that the new Communications Officer was going to update the website.

A question was asked if something could be done about other tenants having multiple compost bins and water butts. The Amenities Officer explained that there was CIL funding used to purchase them years ago and there were no more left. The Grounds Team had placed one on every single plot but over the years they had been taken. A tenant pointed out that when 10 pole plots are split into 2 5 pole plots one of those plots would be missing a water butt and a compost bin.

A question was asked about cleaning the solar panels and replacing the battery in the toilet at North Street. Other tenants raised issues with the toilet at Hartford Road which was explained that the Head Groundsman had cleaned and fixed. It was explained that the toilet at Sallowbush Road was out of order due to misuse.

8. CLOSE OF MEETING