

Bishop Auckland Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Allotments and Environment Committee** held in the Four Clocks Centre, Bishop Auckland on **Tuesday, 8th October 2019 at 6.00 pm**

Present: Councillor Fleming, (Chair) and Councillors Blackburn, Cullen and Newton Woods

Also Present: David Anderson (Town Clerk)

AE.1/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were present

AE.2/19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were submitted.

AE.3/19 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

AE.4/19 REVIEW OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Consideration was given to a report of the Town Clerk responding to a recommendation of the Internal Auditor to prepare a report on the income and expenditure for Woodhouse Close allotments and compare this with similar costs on other sites. (For copy see file of Minutes).

It was noted that allotment rents were pooled and ring-fenced with any surplus after general running costs being used to fund capital improvements where necessary. Consideration was given to a schedule comparing income and expenditure for all allotment sites over a five-year period from 2014/15 to 2018/19. Members noted that whilst Woodhouse Close site was a net recipient over the five-year period it compared favourably with other sites.

With regard to pest control on the site, a quote had been received from Durham County Council to continue with the current treatment regime at a cost of £2,263 which included 2 riddance visits if required. An alternative quote had been obtained not including riddance visits at a cost of £1,538, however additional costs would be incurred if additional visits or intensive treatment was required.

It was suggested that the quotation from Durham County Council that did not include the riddance visits be accepted as an ongoing contract, and that advice be re-issued to tenants regarding their role in limiting rat activity, such as:-

- Keeping allotments tidy and removing any stored materials such as timber and sheet materials that may harbour rats
- Not to put down their own poisons as this may have a detrimental effect on overall treatment regime
- Storing food, seed and bulbs in rodent proof containers
- Use of compost bins
- Disposal of hen/pigeon waste

- RECOMMENDED:**
1. That the quotation from Durham County Council not including riddance visits be accepted.
 2. That advice be re-issued to tenants of Woodhouse Close allotment site regarding their role in limiting rat activity.

Signed:
Chair