

Stand-alone zoom meeting Wednesday 2 August 2023 at 14:00

A meeting between Lowestoft Town Council Allotments Sub-Committee, Chair of Lowestoft & District Allotments Ltd and a representative of the Ormiston Denes Academy

To review the boundary situation between Ormiston Denes Academy and the St Margaret's Allotments site.

In Attendance: Ron Fiorentini, Ormiston Denes Academy Site Manager & Academy Safety Officer, Betty Jarrod Chair of Lowestoft & District Allotments Ltd and Cllrs Andy Pearce, Elise Youngman and Keith Patience

1. To receive an update from the Ormiston Denes Academy representative on the situation
Mr Fiorentini explained these concerns had been raised over a year ago with a visit from the Allotments Association. Some concerns had been addressed but many remained and were worsening, in particular the fence is starting to lean due to the build-up of allotment waste and this allowed people to climb into or out of the school. Cllr Pearce queried if the waste is due to regular use or a historical build-up and Mr Fiorentini confirmed it was regular use, noting that fresh waste had been added today.
2. To receive an update from the Chair of Lowestoft and District Allotments Ltd on the actions being taken
Ms Jarrod explained that there was an issue with the expense of removing the waste as it is a long stretch along the fence. Historically the waste was originally located there to level some of the allotment plots and little seems to have been added since. The Project and Committee Clerk and the Facilities Maintenance Officer had attended the site and agreed that though expensive the removal needs actioning, therefore officers would seek a quote to dig out the allotment side of the fence half a metre from fence and remove the waste. Ms Jarrod noted that a tree located along the boundary may need to be considered for removal as it likely helps people climb over the fence. Ms Jarrod suggested that the expense of the removal be shared between the Allotment Association and Lowestoft Town Council as the Association are unable to afford it themselves. The waste mostly consists of vegetation and solid earth.

It was agreed by all in attendance that the waste needs to be removed. Ms Jarrod confirmed that once removed any waste generated through ongoing usage will be minimal and manageable and the Allotments Association will ensure the accumulation will not occur again.

3. To agree on a resolution
Cllr Pearce requested a placeholder item on August Full Council agenda to consider the quote for removal (if received by then) and take decisive action, with officers to also seek a professional opinion on the tree due to the safeguarding issues.

Mr Fiorentini queried if a site visit could be conducted on the Ormiston Denes side to see the fence. Ms Jarrod was happy to attend and suggested Mr Fiorentini also view the fence from the allotment side so they are both aware of the issues, which Mr Fiorentini agreed to. Mr Fiorentini gave officers permission to provide his email and mobile number to Ms Jarrod so they can arrange their site visit. Cllr Pearce offered to join the site visit if they felt a Town Council representative was required. Any feedback from the site visit would be provided to the office for consideration at the August Full Council meeting.