

Alresford Allotment Society

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 17th July 2025 in the Committee Room at NATC.

Present: Tony Mott (Chairman), Nigel Webb (Secretary), Dawn Othen (Treasurer), Tim Dodd, Russ Waterton, Co-opted Members, Barry Davis, Jo Downie and Brigid Taylor.

Item No	Minutes	Action
1.	Apologies – Cllr Johnny Dakin – NATC Liaison	
2.	The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 15 th May 2025 were agreed.	
3.	The Chairman raised the following matters which were not covered under an Agenda Item:- - A procedure for logging the RHS Card out to Members by the Town Council needs to be put in place. Currently there appears to be some confusion. The Chairman suggested a diary system might be appropriate. - The new Watercress Site shed needs to be erected and the pallets, on site, need to be secured in place. The position for both have been agreed. TD agreed to arrange a working party once the weather cooled down. RW was happy to assist. - The proposed coach trip to RHS Wisley has unfortunately had to be shelved due to a lack of support. It was agreed to ask Members again next year. - It was agreed that there were now sufficient Allotment Society wheelbarrows at both sites. - It was agreed that a skip was not required at the Watercress site for the time being. - Concern about the strength of the bridge over the watercress beds into the Watercress Site was no longer an issue as the large tractor and trailer that currently delivers the manure would be too big to access the site. See item 6. - A brief discussion took place on the subject of the NAS Insurance Scheme. It was agreed that our RHS Public Liability Insurance adequately covers the Society and its Members without the need for Members to avail themselves of the NAS Cover.	TM TD

	- The Secretary agreed to circulate the paper on the 'Roles of the Officers of the Society' to the Committee. - The Notice Board, kindly built by Geoff Ellis, needs to be erected at the Watercress Site car park. TD and NW agreed to undertake this task as soon as time was available. - Despite the deadline for numbering sheds and compost bins not sited on Members plots some were still not displaying a number. The Chairman and Secretary agreed to identify the sheds and bins in question and write to the plot holder accordingly.	TD & NW TM & NW
4.	The Treasurer presented her Report. The Bank Balance currently stood at £1,197.43. New Farm Motor Services had kindly renewed their annual donation of £100.00. £195.00 had been paid out for the year's supply of manure. The cost of installing two new standpipes to the northeast corner of the Spring Gardens allotments had come to £446.00 just within the Grant of £500.00 received from the Town Council. The Treasurer then went through the budgeted Income and Expenditure figures for the current year which showed a small deficit. The outcome for 2025/26 would require some additional fundraising to achieve breakeven despite the agreed increase in the Society's levy in September from £3.00 to £5.00 per Member. It was agreed to increase the charge per barrow of manure from the current amount of £1.50 to £2.00 from 1st September. The Chairman then raised the subject of moving Banks as our Bankers, Lloyds, charge an annual fee of £60.00 for holding an Account with them. It was felt that having double signatories was over burdensome with online banking. It was agreed that a standard template would be used to authorise payments over £50.00. This would state the Payee, the reason for the payment, the amount and authorisation by one of the two signatories, TM or RW. Following a general discussion regarding Banks that offer free banking to Community Accounts it was agreed the Society would move to Metro Bank. Metro Bank have agreed to handle the transfer of our Account from Lloyds to themselves. Any payments that continue to be made into our Lloyds Account will be transferred to Metro for a period of time.	

	The Chairman asked for a show of support which was unanimous. The Chairman asked the Treasurer to implement the Committee's decision.	DO
5.	BT has the Autumn Newsletter in hand. Items will include suggestions from Southern Water on how to reduce water usage, our display at the Alresford Show (6th September), and the results of the sunflower competition. JD agreed to write a piece on composting. The Chairman agreed to approach a plot holder to feature in the issue.	BT TM
6.	The Chairman asked BT to give a report on the Watercress Site Allotments. She advised that there was a demand to use the green waste area. It was agreed this would be put in hand as soon as possible. BT asked if composting bins could be incorporated into the area which the Chairman agreed could be done, he asked TD and NW to undertake this. It had been agreed with the Town Council to use Plot C26 for their manure heap. BT agreed to keep this clear. BT said some of the new plot holders, with a quarter plot, would like to increase their plot size. The Chairman suggested they spoke directly to the Town Council to see if this could be accommodated. BT asked if fruit trees could be planted in the top northeast corner. NW suggested that once the shed and composting area had been constructed this could be looked at further. The Chairman advised that a delivery of well rotted horse manure would shortly be delivered from the tenants of the adjacent pony paddock.	TD & NW BT
7.	The Town Council carried out their first Annual Allotment Inspection of 2025 on 26th June, DO and RW were in attendance. Overall, the standard was satisfactory. A small number of 'Informal Warning' letters have been issued and reminders sent to some plot holders who still have not arranged for a water butt to collect rainwater from their shed roofs. This is especially important in the current very dry conditions. The Town Council has arranged for Plot 22W to be cleared.	

8.	The first Society Guest Talk has been organised by BD and JD. The well-known Ray Broughton will be our Speaker. His subject will be “80 things you may not know about horticulture”. It will be held at the Alresford Golf Club on Friday 5th August at 7pm. To date approximately 20 Members have indicated they will attend. It was agreed to ask Members of the Alresford Horticultural Society if they would like to attend. Tickets on the door, £2.00 for Allotment Members and £3.00 for Horticultural Members. BD will send out a last reminder to Members at the end of this month and put a notice on the Board in the Spring Gardens car park.	
9.	We have agreed with the Town Council to keep the Right of Way along the north edge of the Watercress Site mown. NW will add this as an ‘Optional Task’ for the Mowing Rota Volunteers.	
10.	JD has created an extremely well presented website https://www.alresfordallotments.org using Wicks software. The site is now live and includes a great deal of information including The Constitution, Allotment Rules, Newsletters, Committee Members and Minutes, Bank Account details. Further details can be added as and when needed. JD has also secured the Domain Name for the next 3 years. It was agreed to reimburse JD for all her outgoings.	DO
11.	We have received a delivery of manure at Spring Gardens which is not well rotted. It is hoped by covering it will rot down in time for the autumn. The quality of wood chippings has improved with our new supplied, C & D Trees.	
12.	AOB – BD raised the issue of our Group Membership of the National Allotment Society. He felt we needed to do more to advise Members of the benefits available which could be very helpful to Members new to growing on an allotment. It was agreed to promote NAS on our website, Facebook Page and in our Newsletters. NW said the Town Council had been asked for a directive following the announcement by Southern Water of a hosepipe ban from 21st July. They have confirmed this DOES NOT apply to Allotments. Next Meeting Thursday 11th September Meeting closed at 9pm.	NKLW 18.07.25

