BUDLEIGH SALTERTON TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Community Gardens Committee held in the Council Offices, Station Road, Budleigh Salterton on Monday 9 March 2026.

The meeting commenced at 7.45pn

PRESENT
Cllr A Chaplin (Chair)
Cllr P Lewis
Cllr C Cunningham

In attendance: Alice Gater-Wildgust (Town Clerk), Cllr Doorbar, Cllr Horn, Cllr Manfield and two members of the public.

25.477 Public Speaking Time

A member of the public requested that plot holders be formally notified of meetings of this Committee.

The member also raised concerns regarding the condition of the allotment sheds. It was noted that the sheds are approximately 12 years old and that requiring tenants to repair sheds at their own expense could result in significant costs. The member asked whether consideration could be given to replacing sheds where they are deemed to be beyond repair. The speaker recalled being told a number of years ago that plot holders were not permitted to paint their shed.

A second speaker raised concerns regarding the scarcity of water on the allotments, asking why the water supply remains turned off until 1 April annually.

25.478 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

25.479 Declarations of Interests

There were no interests declared.

25.480 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Gardens Committee held on 9 June 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting, It was unanimously agreed that they be signed as a true record.

25.481 Chair's Report

The Chair reported that eight plot holders had been written to following the recent inspection. Despite a very poor start to the year in terms of weather conditions, many plots were noted to be looking particularly well maintained.

It was reported that a couple of water posts had been damaged and these would be repaired.

The main gate requires a locating holder to prevent it from moving independently.

A blocked drain adjacent to the main gate requires investigation and clearing by the owner which may be BSTC or DCC.

The Chair also reported that dog fouling remains an issue on the site. A letter has been circulated to remind plot holders that dogs are not permitted. Feedback had been received from one plot holder regarding a stray dog, and efforts would be made to determine where the dog is coming from.

25.482 Waiting List

It was noted that there were currently 12 people on the waiting list.

25.483 Plot Rents

i. It was noted that all due plot rents for 2026 have been received.

Approved

ii. It was further note that the annual plot rent includes, in addition to the allotment plot itself, the provision of a shed (second-hand but in good order), a water butt, and access to mains water.
The maintenance of sheds is the responsibility of the plot holder for the full duration of their tenancy. Greenhouses may be installed only with the permission of BSTC. At the end of the tenancy, greenhouses must be removed by the outgoing plot holder unless the incoming plot holder explicitly agrees to accept responsibility for them. It was:

Resolved: that the CG committee would review the process around shed condition management and consider what, if any, next steps.

25.484 Plot Edging

Consideration was given to whether BSTC will continue to provide replacement plot edging, in light of the associated material and staff costs. Costs from 2022 to date were £2700.00 for materials plus staff costs. It was:

Resolved: to recommend to the Town Council that this practice be discontinued. It was noted that clear plot boundaries are already created by the paths.

25.485 Water Scarcity

Consideration was given to the date that the water is turned on at the beginning of the growing season. It was:

Resolved: to recommend to the Town Council that water in 2027 would be turned on by March 1st.

25.486 Any Other Business at the Chair's Discretion

No other business was raised.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8.21pm.

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Chair

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Date

Cllr A F Chaplin (Chair)
Cllr C Cunningham
Cllr P Lewis

Approved