SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL

ALLOTMENTS SECRETARIES MEETING

17 SEPTEMBER 2026

IN ATTENDANCE

Bowbrook	Ant Snowden
Castlefields	Richard Steedman
Column	Carina Newham
Greenfields	Lesley McAleavy
Meole Brace	No-one present
Meole	Sharon Skelton & Arthur Elliot
Monkmoor	Elaine Marpole
Sutton Lane	Darren Hilton

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Danny Powell (Operations Manager - Horticulture) & Stuart Farmer (Operations Manager - Logistics)

1 INTRODUCTIONS

Helen Ball welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 9 April 2026 had been circulated and all agreed they were accurate.

3 MATTERS ARIISING FROM THE MINUTES

Monkmoor Allotments – Elaine queried the Sycamore Tree outside of the allotments. Danny reported that Mike Pugh had visited the tree and was looking into ownership.

4 ALLOTMENT UPDATES

Column

- 12 on the waiting list
- 9 have left this year and 5 have been given notice to quit

- Queried boundary ownership. It was identified that most belonged to the neighbouring residents. One have cut a hole through the hedge to access their allotment. It was pointed out that allotment tenancies were not transferrable.

Meole

- 9 on waiting list
- 2 vacant plots due to be re-allocated
- Annual (76th) Show on 9th August with lots of entries in 76 different classes
- Recently replaced padlock for a combination lock
- Enquiries were made about maintenance of composting toilets – all reported easy maintenance

Monkmoor

- 6 on waiting list
- No vacant plots though 2 on St Peters need clearing up in the Winter
- Delcourt McClare (on behalf of Severn Trent) have been on site undertaking camera work in the sewers
- Can they allow Polytunnels – most Committes did but restricted size to 10% of the plot

Greenfields

- 8 on waiting list
- 2 vacant unusable plots
- Adjusted gates are currently working fine

Sutton

- 16 on waiting list
- No vacancies
- Held a community Cider & Salad event which was successful

Castlefields

- 14 on waiting list
- 2 vacant plots
- Held a Pumpkin Day
- Enquired about regulations for dealing with rats – Poison cannot be used in the open, but still can be used in a shed. The Town Council were resorting more to entrapment
- Enquired whether any Committees were using card machines – No
- Looking to install CCTV powered by solar panels

Bowbrook

- 19 on waiting list
- 1 vacant plot
- Pond had completely dried up this summer – are looking at contingencies for amphibians
- Had a problem with the padlock failing and allotment holders stuck in the site
- Looking to install CCTV
- No uptake of interest from local development but conscious of additional development pressures in the are might spike further demand

Heathgates

- Not present
- 2 on waiting list
- Lot of old tenants retiring/passing away that has required a lot of clearance

5 ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

The Operations Manager reported on the arrangements for the 2026 Allotment Competition. Last year they tried to update the bigger competition but there was little take-up. There seemed to be very little appetite for a competition. Most held in-house competitions. All reported that the dynamics of allotment holders had changed with them more interested in producing food than competing.

6 MATTERS RAISED BY ALLOTMENT SITES

Meole

- Two derelict sheds need removing (one on Vicarage Road and the other on Stanley Lane) – DP to arrange removal
- Hedgeline along Meolw Walk at the Vicarage Road site needs filling in
- Conifer Trees on Vicarage Road need inspecting – Mike Pugh to look into
- Overhanging trees from residents backing onto Stanley Lane are too big for plot holder to cut – need trimming back
- Washford Road hedge needs trimming back

Heathgates

- Two asbestos sheds need help clearing
- Assistance needed in clearing some plots

Stanley Lane / Vicarage Road / Washford Road

- Derelict shed on Vicarage road needs removing
- Old Shed on Stanley Lane needs removing

Column

- Requested a green waste skip – send dates to DP

Monkmoor

- Hedges need cutting, particularly the hedge along the alleyway – Is in Darren's programme
- Water Tap Posts on Judith Butts need replacing – SF to look into
- When will taps be turned off – DP happy for Committees to decide give it is likely to be a mild season

Sutton Lane

- Requested plainings for pathways

Greenfields

- Committee happy to cut the hedge but need assistance removing the clippings – DP to arrand for Darren to come
- Enquired about water butts

Bowbrook

- Cars were parking in the curtilage of the former Memorial Garden site next door
- Hedgecutting required
- Any changes to bonfire usage
- Anyone had a supply of scaffold poles - No

Castlefields

- Require a trailer to remove rubbish

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Food Resilience – The Town Council is to work with the Shropshire Good Food Partnership to undertake a food resilience review with a view to creating better community resilience during food shocks arising from global crises, changes to fuel prices, climate change and particularly this summer with drought conditions and wildfires. The Committees were asked whether they would be willing to be part of the study. All were in agreement and discussions took place around using polytunnels to extend the growing season, water catchment opportunities and even the potential of boreholes.

Weir Hill Phase 3 – The Town Council is in discussions with the developer of the Weir Hill Development regarding Phase 3 in which they are proposing to create allotments; they have asked the Town Council whether they would be prepared to adopt them. Column Association was asked whether they may wish to expand their responsibility to the new site; the Association advised that they already had a number of Weir Hill residents on the site so would be willing to consider expansion.

Update on Secretary Details – The Town Council Accountant has sent an email requesting updated Committee details.

Heart of England in Bloom – The Operations Managers thanked Column Allotments for facilitating a visit from the Heart of England in Bloom Judges as part of the town's entry into the annual competition. The results are announced on 22nd October.

Wood Disposal – Clarification had been sought from Committees regarding disposal of wood. Operations Managers reported that and painted/tanalised/preserved wood could not be recycled.

8 NEXT MEETING

17 September 2026 – 3.00pm