

SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
ALLOTMENTS SECRETARIES MEETING
9 APRIL 2026

IN ATTENDANCE

Bowbrook	Ant Snowden
Castlefields	Richard Steedman
Column	Carina Newham
Greenfields	Lesley McAleavy
Heathgates	John Burrows
Meole Brace	No-one present
Monkmoor	Elaine Marpole
Sutton Lane	Viv Canham

Helen Ball (Town Clerk), Danny Powell (Operations Manager)

1 INTRODUCTIONS

Helen Ball welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 NOTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The notes of the meeting held on 9 April 2025 had been circulated and all agreed they were accurate.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Communications – There was an update on the communications used by various Committees. Bowbrook use Noticeboards and Co-op Community Noticeboards. Monkmoor use their visible banner. The Town Council's Communications Officer would be asked to create posters for each Allotment Site.

ACTION – Communications Officer to help support publicity on vacancies

4 ALLOTMENT UPDATES

Greenfields – Waiting List was down to 4. There had been a huge turnover in the last 6 months. Everything else was going OK. There were currently 4 empty plots; 2 were hard to

let being near to the area that floods and are prevalent with Horsetail. Lesley was asked about flooding in the area; this was in light of increased water levels in the Old River Bed. There hasn't been any flooding despite a high-water table throughout the year; this was a similar experience at the Old River-Bed.

Bowbrook – The Ash trees have now been removed. There had been a problem early on in the season with flooded paths; this had reduced. There had been no other break-ins after buying heavy duty padlocks; the Committee was looking at purchasing a doorcam style video camera for the site. The Committee had moved to electric kit charged from a solar panel. Third of the plots have changed hands over the last 3yrs. 8 new arrivals this year. Now down to a handful on the waiting list with no vacancies.

Castlefields – Good year. Had an odd break-in, but the Council repaired the fencing. Tarvin Road Trees were pollarded, but 3 or 4 were overgrown with ivy. A shelter has been put up on the bowling green within a metre of the fence. Danny will monitor any adverse impact on the allotments. 9 on waiting list, 2 are awaiting allocation of the 2 vacant plots

Heathgates – Lots of plot turnover, but vacant plots have filled up well. 3 on the waiting list with 4 potentially vacant plots. Drainage that went in last year is going well. Allotment Holders have built an attenuation pond to address the drainage. Lots of wildlife on the plots including badgers and foxes. Problems with people dumping woodchip on the entrance; it was thought that it was temporary tree operators. Would like the hedge reduced in height. The neighbouring development had assured the allotment site that the fencing which had been removed would be replaced, this had not been done; Danny would chase up the developer.

Meole – Food Hub have a plot to grow food for the Barnabas Food Bank. Three sites that back on the railway; there are discussions with Network Rail on replacement fencing. There are no vacancies and 7 on the waiting list.

Column – 2 on the waiting list with one quarter plot becoming vacant. Site overall is looking tidy after a concerted tidy up last summer with a new skip. There has been vandalism from individuals accessing the allotment site from the Dark Lane Park. There are some Rough Sleepers on Bage Way that have set up camp recently; Town Clerk would notify Shropshire Council's Rough Sleeping Team. Column enquired about whether any other plots held insurance with NSALG and took out individual insurance; all said that they had moved from NSALG to the RHS.

Monkmoor – Currently 8 on the Waiting List. No Vacancies on Judith Butts. 5 half plots on St Peters Side. A couple of plots were unusable. Most rents have come in. Recent Inspection showed plots in a good condition. At St Peter's Side there is a sewer head; this needs reporting to Severn Trent. Elaine asked whether the taps can now be turned on.; Danny was happy for them to be turned on. There was a Sycamore Trees that was overgrown with Ivy. Management Committee have approved Chickens on a plot; they are

happy with process. Currently had a problem with unknown people coming to help on their plot. The Committee has a new policy that allows for helpers but they have to be supervised by the plot holder rather than left to their own devices. Committee have decided to lift the dangerous steps and grass over and make a sloping incline.

Sutton Lane – 15 on waiting list with no vacancies. STC replaced taps, posts, water leak and provided chippings and plainings. There was a lot of wildlife.

Coton Hill - No-one present

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

Heathgates

- Hedge needs reducing in size
- Darren to relocate the chippings that are dumped from time to time
- More robust CCTV in Operation and No Tipping Signs needed
- There is waste that needs to be collected – as long as it is separate and in a position that the tractor driver can access is. Trees that can go in green waste; painted wood can't be recycled

Stanley Lane / Vicarage Road / Washford Road

- Network Rail Fencing
- Fencing by new development
- Tree in a neighbouring property

Column

- Tipped waste needs removing – needs to be split into separate material types
- Hedge at Bage Way needs cutting – the allotment holder has encroached towards the hedge so much that the tractor driver can't get past it to cut the hedge

Monkmoor

- Asked whether hedges will be cut this year – they had tried but ground conditions prevented Darren from doing so.
- Unhealthy Sycamore Tree – this is a Shropshire Council Tree

Sutton Lane

- Any more plainings – Danny will make enquiries
- Are there any more blue crates from the greengrocers from the Market Hall – Danny will make enquiries with Ian
- One plot that wants re-designating as two quarters – happy for the Management Committee to split plots as they feel appropriate

Greenfields

- Could Town Council come to turn on the water
- Nothing else that needs doing

Bowbrook

- Problems with the new development and trucks parking – No parking/turning Signs
- Need gravel/plainings

Castlefields

- Require the trailer to collect waste – Danny to arrange dates
- Tyre recycling – Council unable to dispose of
- Big Blue Water Butts – Danny to make enquiries

7 NEXT MEETING

17 September 2026 – 3.00pm