

**To receive a draft Churchtown Allotment Colonies Agreement and report and consider any actions and associated expenditure**

Services Committee Meeting held 21 April 2022 considered and agreed:

To receive a report relating to Churchtown Allotment beehives and consider any actions and associated expenditure.

The Acting Town Clerk informed those present that the recommendation contained within the officer's report is not the view of the Town Council.

The Acting Town Clerk advised that alternative options for the Town Council have been identified and therefore should be further discussed and debated at this evening's meeting.

The Acting Town Clerk informed Members that no formal agreement, insurance or risk assessment is currently in place. Therefore, Members were asked to be mindful that a formal agreement would need to be in place together with adequate insurance cover and a risk assessment.

The Chairman invited a member of the public to speak on behalf of the allotment holders and beekeepers.

Members thanked members of the public for attending this evening's meeting to discuss and debate the best possible resolution. Members recognise the importance of bees and beekeeping for the environment, ecology and educational benefits they provide for the community.

It was proposed by Councillor Peggs, seconded by Councillor Foster and **RESOLVED** to delegate to the Acting Town Clerk to:

1. Ensure there is only a maximum of nine beehives on Town Council land located behind Churchtown allotments

2. Appoint the Town Council's solicitor to work up a formal agreement between the beekeepers and the Town Council, at a cost to the Town Council within budget allocating to budget code 6418 professional fees

3. Invoice rental charges at a cost of £50 per beekeeper per annum

4. Ensure the three beekeepers continue to maintain Saltash Town Council area of land where the beehives are situated

5. Ensure the three beekeepers provide a copy of their insurance certificate for Town Council records

6. Work up a risk assessment to include the beehives to be shut down for a period as required to allow for any Town Council maintenance works and tree surveys to be carried out safely.

### Draft Agreement:

Points 2 and 3 of the above resolution (highlighted yellow for ease of reference) requires Members further consideration this evening:

- Point 2 – The committee instructed a solicitor to work up a formal agreement. To save the Town Council money, a draft agreement has been created on behalf of the Town Council, signed off by the Town Clerk / RFO as the legal officer. Please refer to Appendix A attached to the report to review the wording of the draft agreement.

Members are asked to consider approving the draft agreement subject to point 3 above and if the committee wish to seek solicitor approval or are content with the Town Clerk / RFO submission?

- Point 3 - The committee resolved to introduce rental charges at a cost of £50 per beekeeper per annum. The beekeepers ask the committee to reconsider the rental charge in return for some Bee Awareness Sessions to the public.

The request fits nicely with the Town Council Business Plan Strategic Priorities – Climate Emergency, Health and Wellbeing, Recreation and Leisure.

- Points 4,5,6 – Have been actioned as instructed by the committee.

**End of Report**  
**Town Clerk /RFO**