

Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 – Section 1

Explanation for Question 9

North Ferriby Parish Council is the sole trustee for the Anne Turner Memorial Allotments (221998).

In December 2021 the clerk attended Allotment Training run by the Local Council Association (ERNLLCA) in conjunction with the National Allotment Society (NAS). Some questions were raised during that training relating to the governance arrangements for the allotments, however these were not followed up with ERNLLCA until May 2022.

Upon review it was noted that constitution of the Allotment Committee who run and manage the allotments for the parish council did not meet the requirements of LGA 1972, Localism Act 2011 and Charities Act 2011. There was no impropriety found in the actions that were being carried out, just that the committee did not have the legal authority to do the work it was undertaking.

Various governance models were considered, taking legal advice from both NAS, ERNLLCA and a solicitor acting for the Parish Council. To correct the governance issues, it has been decided that the Allotment Committee will become a Co-operative and the Parish Council acting as Trustees will lease the allotment land to the co-operative. This approach was agreed by the allotment holders in a meeting held on 31st January 2023, and the application to create the co-operative is underway. A lease, which includes the objects of the charity and other obligations, has been drafted by the Parish Council's solicitor.

Once the co-operative has been formed, the lease will be finalised signed and then question 9 can be affirmed at the next audit.

J Haslope - Clerk/RFO

24 April 2023