

Drinkstone Parish Council

Allotments

Report to the Ordinary Meeting Dated 7th December 2020

Agenda Item; Councillor Portfolios

During the last month I have visited both sets of allotments and can report that the general condition is good on both sites with no maintenance required.

The privately funded Memorial plaque for Ivan Crick approved at the last meeting has been mounted on the side of the shed on the Gedding Road allotments.

Both Water meter readings have been taken and given to The Clerk to update the account.

The Fraudulent direct debits on the allotment account are now being investigated by the Police with both myself and The Clerk are assisting with the enquiries.

The land currently leased to Lucy Blake on Rattlesden Road has not had a rent review since the lease was signed in 1979. During that time the rent for allotments has increased on a number of occasions and it is only fair that a reasonable increase should be applied to the Rattlesden Road land. I have consulted with the other two trustees and we would like to propose that we issue Lucy Blake with the required 12 months notice to increase the rent from £52 pa to £65pa. base on a 3% compound increase a year since 1979.

Proposal to increase the rent on the Rattlesden Road land leased by Lucy Blake to £65 from December 2021.

I have had a number of discussions with the allotment holders on Rattlesden Road about building some compost bins to be sited on the waste land by the

gate. Covid 19 and Social distancing restrictions have meant that it has not been possible to acquire the necessary materials nor form a working party to build them. I would therefore like to propose that we buy 5 wooden compost bins for the Rattlesden Road allotments. I have researched a number of options with the most suitable for purpose being a 718litre bin from Primrose.co.uk at £67.99 each inclusive of VAT.



Proposal to buy 5 wooden compost bins for the Rattlesden Road allotments at a cost of £67.99 each (£339.95 inc VAT)

I have also been approached by a number of tenants on the Gedding Road allotments about the purchase of a lawn mower to cut the paths and grass. This is currently undertaken by a tenant who no longer wishes to use his own mower. The cost of buying a new lawn mower is cost prohibitive, however we can buy a reconditioned petrol mower which is fit for purpose for £150. An ATCO 19SE with electric start as seen below.



Proposal to buy a reconditioned lawn mower for the Gedding Road allotments for £150.

The large Ivy tree by the smaller gated entrance to the Gedding Road allotments is potentially obstructing the view of motorists and is possibly housing a rats nest as they have been seen running in and out of it. I am going to speak to the residents of Chapel cottage to establish the ownership of the Ivy and will then recommend what action needs to be taken.

Prepared by Cllr Edmondson

25th November 2021

Legal and Financial advice from Clerk

The parish council has an ancillary power to do anything that will facilitate, be conducive to or incidental to the discharge of its powers and functions (Local Government Act 1972, s.111) – in this case, to provide land for allotments and to enter into allotment tenancies in the council's area (Small Holding & Allotments Act 1908, ss.23,25).

The proposal is to purchase 5 compost bins for the Rattlesden Road Allotments (quotes attached) @ £67.99 each including VAT – Total cost £339.95 incl. VAT

Balance on Drinkstone Green Allotments Account @ 30 Sept' 20	£1215.07
Income received:	£ 343.12
Scheduled Refund of overpayment:	<u>£452.24</u>
Available funds:	£1105.95

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Allotments for the Working poor

Comparative quotes and specification for propose wooden compost bins for Rattlesden Road allotments.

[Gardening Works - Wooden Raised Beds & Compost Bins](#)

[800 Blackdown Range Double Standard Wooden Composter | Original Organics](#)

[Easy-Load Wooden Compost Bin - Large - 718 Litres - by Lacewing™ £69.99 \(primrose.co.uk\)](#)