

ALLOTMENT CHARGE PROPOSAL – 2021/22

Paper for Walberswick Parish Council meeting of the 12th April 2021

Background

Given many changes over the years of how the allotments have been managed and charged, there remains some uncertainty whether the allotments costs to the Parish Council are covered by allotment users. This has gotten more unclear when the costs of water are taken into account. Currently, when taking into the actual costs of the allotments to the Council, allotment users are being subsidised by the precept.

This paper proposes a cost recovery approach to setting annual allotment fees.

There are currently 26 allotment

Direct Costs

Rent of land: £300

Water costs: approximately £175-200 annually (The last water payment was made in 2019 for £175)

TOTAL: approximately £500 annually

On a direct cost recovery basis (but not counting the time of Council staff, billing, etc), the annual rent for a plot would be £19.23.

Findings

Several local Councils were contacted to get a comparison:

Reydon PC: £20 a full plot, £15 for a half plot.

Saxmundham TC: £20 a full plot, £15 a half plot.

Southwold TC: £20, £12 for a half plot.

All three of the above also recharge water bills to the allotment holders.

Walberswick: £14 for full plot, £10 for half plot. No water use has been charged to allotment holders in 2019/20.

Recommendations

- Allotments should be managed with a view to at least recover costs and to be in line with allotments nearby.
- If we make an estimate for water, this would suggest a minimum of £20 for a full plot and £12-£14 for a half plot.
- Water could be recharged at a proportional rate to each allotment holder each year once the bill is received. This to be a simple division of costs/number of allotment holders.