

SOUTH SWINDON PARISH COUNCIL

Allotments Working Party

Leisure & Amenities Committee – 3 September 2019

1. Introduction

This report details the Allotment Working Party meeting held on 28th August 2019 and actions identified from that.

2. Report Details

- 2.1** The Parish Council has operated fourteen allotment sites within South Swindon since obtaining the freehold on 5th May 2017. The allotment sites had suffered from a lack of maintenance and active management.
- 2.2** Thanks were given to Tracey Hodson the current Allotments Manager for all of her hard work as she was due to leave the post at the end of September.
- 2.3** Thanks were given to all site reps for their additional work on site in a voluntary capacity.
- 2.4** A draft of the new allotment guidelines was tabled (attached to this report) and feedback was welcomed. The following issue was raised;

13.6 – Bonfires

The guidelines provided that bonfires should be kept to after dusk and extinguished before leaving.

It was agreed to amend and specify that bonfires should not be lit before 6pm at any time.

The new guidelines will be distributed to all plot holders with their annual invoice.

- 2.5** The Parish Council resolved at the Leisure & Amenities Meeting 5th June 2018 (Min 82);

That the fees for non-residents be increased to £70 from October 2018 and then increased by £10 each year for the following 2 years

No increases were proposed for parishioners so these have been held for a third successive year.

Therefore, the proposed pricing structure for 2019/20 is as follows –

	Half Plot	Full Plot
Parishioner	£23.00	£46.00
Parishioner Over 65	£21.00	£42.00
Non-Parishioner	£40.00	£80.00
Non-Parishioner Over 65	£38.00	£76.00

- 2.6** The RFO detailed the income and expenditure for the preceding and current year to date and highlighted that a large expense was the cost of rotovating plots free of charge for new tenants. Often this would not be taken advantage off and plots would be left to become covered in weeds again.

It is proposed to introduce a nominal fee of £20 each half plot for new plot holders if they wish to have their plot rotovated at the start of a tenancy.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1** That the draft new Allotment Guidelines mentioned in 2.4 and attached to this report be approved.
- 3.2** That the pricing structure for 2019/20 detailed in 2.5 be approved.
- 3.3** That the new fee for rotovating allotments as detailed in 2.6 be approved.