

ALLOTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING July 2021

The 17 plots are all let. Nearly all of them have been divided in half, apart from two of 8 rods each. The rest vary between 3.5 and 5.5 rods, the majority being 4 rods. Of the 24 plot holders, four live in Linton.

Jane Sawyer retired as allotment manager on 31st August 2020, with Julie Urquhart taking on this role. Jane has overseen the allotments for many years and is to be thanked for her dedication and care in ensuring the allotments are kept in good order. To support Julie, three current allotment holders, Ben Dixon, Les Watt, and Roger Collins help with the day to day management.

The water supply and consumption issues of the previous year have now been rectified, with monthly meter readings being undertaken in order to ensure that the Parish Council is not over-charged for water usage.

The Parish Council have been reassured that appropriate boundary fencing will be installed by Fernham Homes, the developers of Hillside Park, to the north of the allotments, to provide security to the allotment holders and their sheds. An appraisal of the existing rabbit fencing to the allotment boundaries was also undertaken this year as much of it has collapsed and is, thus, ineffective. Given that there are currently no issues with rabbits on the allotments, the Parish Council did not deem it worth undertaking repairs at present, but a watching brief would be maintained and situation would be reviewed should rabbits become a problem.

At the rent review in July it was agreed that there would be no increase in rent this year. The rental therefore remains at £5 per rod. There is still no separate charge made for water supply.

Covid 19 restrictions impacted on some of the allotment events this year, with the autumn tidy up and the spring seed swap needing to be delayed due to lockdown restrictions. The autumn tidy up took place over several weekends in November, and was well attended. However, the cold and wet spring meant that most allotment holders did not have excess seeds and seedlings for the seed swap event, so this did not take place this year. Lockdown has, however, meant that many plot holders have had more time to work their plots, and a number have commented on how it has been really beneficial for their wellbeing over this period.

Julie Urquhart
2 July 2021