



**Community Assets & Opens Spaces Committee
Wednesday 7 October 2026**

Agenda Item 7 – Allotments Update

7.1 – Report from the Annual Allotment Meeting that took place on Monday 28 September

Purpose of the Report

Members are required to:

- **NOTE** any updates from the Annual Allotment Meeting and **AGREE** an increase in plot rents of 5% in October 2026 and a further 5% in October 2027.

The Annual Allotment Meeting opened at 7:30pm and the following people attended:

Katy Cena (Allotments & Administration Officer)
Cllr Diane Archer
Cllr Matthew Smith
Bill Jerman (plot holder)
Bob Sanderson (plot holder)

The Chair's report was read out by Cllr Diane Archer, Vice Chair Of Wroughton and Wichelstowe Parish Council. Cllr Diane Archer explained that she was filling in for Cllr Lisa Campisano who was unable to attend.

She thanked plot holders for bringing in items for the Swap Shop. The Chair's report included:

Annual allotment update: Currently there are four vacant plots and the waiting list is very short.

Swap Shop: A memorial plaque will be placed on the swap shop to remember David who built it.

Hedgehog cameras: To capture any footage over the next month, the cameras were recently installed by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and volunteers.

MIND: Thank you to Bob Sanderson for using his allotment plot for people who attend MIND the local mental health charity as they had recently lost their plot at Okus Road.

Maintenance jobs undertaken by the grounds team:

- Hedge maintenance
- Installation of 5mph sign
- Grass cutting
- Plot clearance
- Plot strimming
- Assisting on skip day
- Clearing old cages/pens
- Cutting back trees under head height

Allotment track: Grounds team will shortly be filling in the potholes.

Bonfires: Plot holders were thanked for adhering to the bonfire ban throughout July and August.

Potash & wood chippings: A reminder that these are often left by car park off the bottom track.

Skips: The twice-yearly skip has proven to be popular and the next skip is due to be delivered on Wednesday 14 October.

Plot holders' maintenance: A reminder that plot holders need to maintain at least half the width of the footpath on their plots.

Allotment thefts: An increase in vegetable theft which has been reported to the local PCSOs.

Rental invoices: There will be a 5% increase in October 2026 and 5% increase in October 2027.

KC presented a slide show and thanked plot holders for contributing photos and bringing items to the Swap Shop.

Questions and Answers from the Allotment Meeting – September 2026

Q: Instead of cutting the bordering hedge so much, the council should be focusing on maintenance issues which include mending the ballcocks in the water troughs. There is one water trough next to Moormead Road that seems to be particularly problematic. Can this be fixed?

A: Spoken to the grounds supervisor about this particular water trough and the hedge. Also to feedback plot holders concerns about the wildlife in the hedge and a comment made that it's being cut within an inch of its life.

Q: What are we going to do about plots encroaching onto the footpaths which include broken fence posts?

A: Please report any instances to the office and the if possible the plot number. KC can then try to find out which plot holder it is and contact them.

Q: Can you get the bush cut back near to the entrance of the allotments?

A: KC to request the grounds team to cut this back .

Q: There is a five gallon drum that has been dumped in the bottom car park next to the compost bins.

A: KC to request that the grounds team remove this.

Q: What are you going to do about the gap in the hedge?

A: Speak to the grounds team about planting whips. This may need to go the CA&OS committee.

Q: The metal ramp on the allotment used by banks place as dropped down and there is a gap which is causing disabled users to struggle when using it.

A: Speak to grounds team about filling in the holes around the ramp to make it easier for plot holders of Banks Place.

Q: Instead of just filling in the potholes could you look into skimming the whole pathway by about six inches?

A: Cllr Diane Archer mentioned the cost that this would involve and explained that this would be too expensive to implement at this time. The grounds team will fill in the potholes and pack in the scalplings to level of the path within the next month.

Increase in Plot Rents

The annual rent for an allotment plot has remained static for a number of years. As a result of general inflationary pressures, it is necessary for plot rents to increase.

Currently, the annual rent is £34.90 for a standard size plot for parish residents, with that figure doubling to £69.80 for non-parish residents.

A 5% increase this October will put an additional £1.75 onto the annual rent, taking it to £36.65. A further 5% increase in October 2027 will take it to £38.48.

Recommendations

1. To **APPROVE** or **REJECT** the proposed rent increases for 2026 and 2027.

Report Author: Katy Cena, Allotments and Administration Officer