Notes from the Annual Allotment Meeting – September 2026

The meeting opened at 7:30pm and Cllr Diane Archer introduced members of the working party who attended:

Katy Cena (KC): Allotments & Administration Officer
Cllr Matthew Smith
Bill Jerman (plotholder)
Bob Sanderson (plotholder)

The Chairs report was read out by Cllr Diane Archer, Vice Chair Of Wroughton & Wichelstowe Parish Council. Cllr Diane Archer explained that she was filling in for Lisa Campisano who was unable to attend. She thanked plotholders for bringing in items for the Swap Shop.
The Chairs report included:
Annual Allotment Update: Currently 4 vacant plots and the waiting list is very short
Swap Shop: Memorial plaque 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: Thanking 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: Plotholders were thanked for adhering to the bonfire ban throughout July and August
Potash & Woodchippings: 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
Plotholders Maintenance: Overgrown Footpaths – a reminder that plotholders need to maintain at least half the width of the footpath
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: Speak to the grounds supervisor about this particular water trough. Feedback what was said about the hedge. Also to feedback plotholders concerns about the wildlife in the hedge and a comment made that its 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 5 Galleon drum which 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 plotholders of Banks Place.

Q: Instead of just filling in the potholes could you look into skimming the whole pathway by about 6 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 scalpings to level of the path within the next month.