

Agenda Item 6

Allotment Increases for 2020-21

The last Parish Council rent increase was in early 2016 with the increase being applied in 2017-18. This increase was for 5% with Lowerclough Street and existing garages being excluded to try and reduce the disparity between rents on these sites and other allotment sites.

The Council needs to decide if it wishes to impose a rent increase for the year 2020-21 as this has to be notified to the tenant 12 months in advance through the terms of conditions of the rent invoice of the preceding 2019-20 year which go out in late March.

The Clerk recommends that a 5% increase rounded to the nearest 50p is applied for 2020-21 with the following exemptions:

- 1. Lowerclough Street Allotments: To bring rents into line with other sites.**
- 2. Garage Plots within Allotment Sites: To bring rents into line with plot costs at Lowerclough Street Garage Site.**

These increases will give a moderate increase in income of around £450-500 for 2020-21.

On sites where there is water supplied there is an additional payment of £8 per plot for water charges, this figure has remained static since 2008-9 and now just covers the actual cost. Last year's water bills may have been skewed by the prolonged dry spell last summer but that could be a more regular occurrence and should be factored into potential future water bills.

The Clerk recommends that this needs to be addressed and that the water charge element be increased from £8.00 to £9.00 this would raise approximately £160 towards future water costs.