

Agenda Item 8

Allotment Rent Write off for 2015

The Council needs to write off vacant allotment rent and arrears for the year 2014 – 15 as part of the year-end financial procedures recommended by the Internal Auditor. This shows that Parish Councillors are aware of the level of income lost through vacancies and non-payment of rents. The total write off for 2014 -15 is £1373.50 for vacant plots and £56.00 in uncollected arrears. The council will endeavour to collect the outstanding £56.00.

The breakdown of lost income on a site to site basis is:

Site	Lost Revenue	Vacant Plots
Pasture Lane No.1	96.50	2
Pasture Lane No.2	29.00	1
Lower Parkhill	280.00	4
Lowerclough Street	967.00	18
Adjacent to Pasture Lane	1.00	1
Back Church Street		
Upper Back Nora Street		
Total	£1373.50	26

As can be seen from the above table Lowerclough Street is the main concern with high vacancy rates, whilst vacancy rates on other sites are manageable. The lost revenue for Pasture Lane No. 1 and Lower Parkhill include £122.50 in reductions of annual rent for plots let in the second half of the year so will not appear as write off next year.

Recommendations:

1. That the Council approve the write off of £1373.50 in lost rental revenue and £56.00 in uncollected arrears.
2. That a proactive advertising campaign for Lowerclough Street be undertaken.
3. That any necessary repairs to the timber raised beds have been accessed and a programme of repairs/replacements will be initiated within the 2015-16 budget.
4. Those vacant plots at Lowerclough are strimmed, the weeds sprayed and sheeted over to help inhibit future weed growth.