

COTHERSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Allotment matters

Meeting date 14 November 2018

Plot tenancies

Klondike Plot 8a

The Clerk has received notice that the tenant of Klondike Plot 8a (half-plot) wishes to resign the tenancy at the end of December 2018.

As there was one resident on the waiting list the Clerk approached that person and invited them to visit the plot and decide whether they wanted to take it on. They also received a copy of the 'Rules' to consider. Following consideration, the person has advised that the plot will require more work than they are capable of due to health reasons at the current time, though would still like to be considered for a plot in the future.

Therefore Plot 8a will be without a tenant from 1 January 2019.

The Close Plot 2

The current tenant enquired of the Clerk whether they could keep half the plot if the Council could allocate the other half to someone else. They were advised that the Council would consider this at the November meeting. However, the tenant subsequently advised that after speaking with other ploholders who gave them ideas, and a fear that they might suffer from weeds if 'the other half' wasn't looked after, they have decided to keep the full plot.

Correspondence with tenants

A suggestion is made that the Clerk write to each tenant in November each year. This will potentially have the benefit of:

- Maintaining a contact between Council and tenant
- Reminding the tenant of the rent due date and amount
- Prompting the tenant to alert the Council to any issues, potential notice to terminate etc
- By giving the tenants details of the Parish Council's bank account, it could be hoped that payment is made promptly and direct without cheque or cash

Tenancy agreement / plot marking / rent review

A suggestion is made that the Allotment Agreement is reviewed against best practice and a more accurate map of the plots created and appended to each Agreement in future. This will help to eliminate any doubt about boundaries and also facilitate a comparison of allotment rents with those of 'standard' plot sizes. It would be sensible for the Parish Council to carry out a rent review for the period starting 1 January 2020.

Recommendations

1. Councillors consider how best to attract a new tenant for Klondike Plot 8a.
2. Councillors approve annual correspondence with all tenants.
3. Councillors approve that the Clerk undertakes a review of the Allotment Agreement in line with current best practice and to prepare for Council to review allotment rents to take effect 1 January 2020.