

Minutes of Open Spaces/Fabrics meeting held on Monday 3rd June 2024

Present: Councillor T Threlfall, (Chair)

Councillors Mr. T Fiddler, Mrs. N Whalley, Mrs. C Thomas, Mrs. P Mulholland, K McKay, Mrs. D Dickinson and Mrs. J Atherton

1) Apologies:

Mrs. L Willis. (hols) The reason for absence was accepted.

2) To record Declaration of interest from members in any item to be discussed.

All Councillors, as Landlords, declared an interest in items 3 – The Croft Butts lane allotments

3) To review the rents on the Croft Butts lane Allotment

The Clerk reported that he had checked the historical records of the rents paid for these allotments and found the following:-

1. There has been no rent increase since 2011.
2. The Rate of inflation & the RPI has increased by over 50% since 2011
3. There has been a deficit of £686 in the allotment Accounts over the last 2 years.

As a result it was recommended that the following should be submitted to full Council for approval:-

The Croft Butts lane Allotment Accounts should be self-sufficient and not be subsidised by the rate payers of Freckleton

The following rents will be applied from 01/10/24:-

T1 plot £52.50:

Large Plot £45.00 and

½ plot £22.50.

This represents a 50% increase in the rents in line with the increase in RPI & Rate of Inflation over the last 13 years.

The Accounts will be reviewed on a regular basis and the appropriate adjustments made to the rents.

In addition, the Allotments Holders Association should be reminded of the observations made at the Open Spaces meeting held on 20/05/24. These were:-

Some allotments and areas adjacent to the main pathway were not well kept and were full of weeds. In the past when a plot holder has temporarily not been able to maintain their plot due to ill health or bereavement the other plot holders would help out. It appears that this is not happening now.

Some pathways between plots needed mowing.

Other plots and pathways were well kept.

The Notice board needs painting.

Signed.....Mrs. N Griffiths, Chairman.....

Date.....01/07/2024.....