Clerk report and recommendations – Council meeting 1st July 2024

Agenda item: **24/096 Aldbury Allotments**

To receive clerk’s report and recommendations and agree on the amount of rent increase for 2025.

1. Notice of rent increase was sent all allotment tenants in September 2023. The rent as of 1st October 2024 will be £15 for a half plot and £28 for a full plot.
2. The Council should determine whether to increase the rent from 1st October 2025 as the Notice is to be sent in September 2024.
3. Clerk had contacted Dacorum BC and several other parish clerks and admin to find out what others are charging, some parishes like Bovingdon PC and Flaunden PC don’t provide allotments.
4. It is also hard to compare as Dacorum BC measures allotments in poles and the cost depends on the size, whereas Aldbury PC always rents plots as half or a full plot and some plots vary in sizes.

**FINDINGS:**

* Dacorum at present charges £6.00 per Pole & may be increased next year I think.
* Luton was the most expensive at £9.50 per Pole.
* Gaddesden Parish Council £4.50 per Pole.
* St Albans did not respond but I think it is around the same as Dacorum but they do offer a discount to pensioners.
* Dunstable is £6.60 a Pole.
* Chesham was £4.10 per Pole in 2020
* Watford was second most expensive at £8.50 per Pole
* Wigginton allotments run by the Poors Charity - charges start from £31 and have a water meter and billed by castle water.
* Tring Rural replied with the following – “We do not manage any allotments within Tring Rural however at my other parish I do and we change a nominal sum based on size (each plot is different) then water rates for the previous year are divided on the same ratio.  This however is being reviewed as the council are incurring costs for waste removal and management of vacant plots which needs to be a factor in the fees in my opinion”.

**Recommendations:**

As of 1st October 2025 the increase in annual rent should be £2 per plot i.e for a half plot £17 and for full plot £30.