

Report To: Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee **Date:** 02 October 2023

Contact Officer: Paula Harrison

Subject: Allotment Fees

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Planning, Leisure & Environment Committee with an information to review the fees for a plot at Blagrove allotments

2. DETAIL

2.1 Each Autumn, the Parish Council determines the annual fees for the allotment holders. Since 2017, the Parish Council has continued with small increase rates in the region of ten percent on an annual basis. There are currently 36 plots of which 3 are occupied by non West Swindon residents. For the previous year, the Parish Council opted to freeze the price due to the cost of living.

2.2 It is difficult to compare prices with other parishes as the size of plots vary between allotment sites and between parishes. Generally there is a price for a full/large plot and a price for half plot. Some parishes offer a concessionary rate and most charge a higher fee for those plot holders that live outside the Parish. Prices are set out below:

Parish Council	Full Plot	Half Plot
West Swindon	Size: 250sqm approx. Parish Rate: £56 Standard Rate: £77	Size: 125sqm approx. Parish Rate: £29 Standard Rate: £39

2.3 This year, the Parish Council has attended the site to make repairs to the lock and gate, improved the turning circle for allotment holders with new stone being added and also introduced the community growing allotment plot.

Proposed costs:

2.4 Following a price freeze, it would be reasonable to propose a cost increase of 10% to the plot holders at Blagrove. This would result in Parish resident plot holders experiencing an increase of £2.90 for a half plot £5.60 increase in the cost of a full plot.

2.5 The income generated by the allotment site is c. £1,000 and does not cover the costs of repairs, maintenance, or administration. A ten percent increase will not significantly increase the overall income.

3. Recommendation:

3.1 It is recommended that the Committee considers a price increase for allotment holders and makes a recommendation to Full Council on that basis.