

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Title:	Stones Close Allotments
Date:	5 April 2022
Contact Officer:	Cassie Pinnells, Community Services Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To agree the rent for 2022-23 and to receive the annual inspection report.

Background

2. The Stones Close Allotments are managed by the Stones Close Allotments Society (The Society). This arrangement is formalized through the 4year Partnership Agreement approved in 2019. Within this agreement two conditions call for the Council to review the ground rent and undertake an annual site inspection to ensure the asset is being well maintained.

Ground Rent

3. The ground rent is currently set at £300. It is not possible to compare this fee with other allotments in the county as the responsibility of the management committees differ. The Council has always been keen to support the development of this type of community activity and has not previously looked to accept anything other than a nominal fee.
4. There has been no significant alterations or developments in the responsibility between the two parties, and no change to the overall area that is rented to tenants.

Annual Inspection Report

5. The annual inspection has been completed with the findings summarized in Appendix 1. The site is well managed.
 - a. The site plan has been checked and updated.
 - b. A copy of the insurance policy has been received.
 - c. A copy of the accounts has been received.

Risk Assessment

6. The society is strong both in membership and financial stability. The site is well maintained and on inspection there are no issues for concerns. There are no obvious risks arising from this report.
7. Environmental impact the site is thriving, enabling their members to grow their own fruit and vegetables and flowers. This site assists with reducing the carbon footprint, encourages bees and butterflies and is an enjoyed leisure activity to enhance their health and wellbeing. Water is harvested on site to aid the water consumption costs. Within the agreement there are controlling measures for bonfires limit, rubbish accumulation and management of chemicals on site.

Resource Appraisal

8. An annual rent of £300 is received from the Allotment Society.

Legal Powers: Small Holdings & Allotments Act 1908, s23

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked:

- i) To agree that the rent remains at £300 for the financial year 2022-23.*
- ii) To note the attached inspection report.*