

Ide Parish Council

Allotments – Annual Report 2022/23

Presented by Nick Bradley, Allotments Co-Ordinator
9 May 2023

1. The Parish Council leases land at the rear of Ide Primary School from Devon County Council (DCC) to use as allotment garden plots for Ide residents.
2. The current lease is for a period of six years, ending on 23 October 2023. With the help (pro bono) of Charlotte McGregor of Wollens Law Firm, we (the Parish Council) are due to sign a fresh six year lease with DCC, the terms of which have recently been agreed.
3. The rent for the land will increase from £120 (the rate for the last six years) to £150 per year from 24 October 2023. The rent is reviewed after three years in line with Real Average Weekly Earnings; in 2020 DCC chose not to increase the rent. We have funds earmarked in the annual budget to meet this cost.
4. With written agreement from DCC, we (the Parish Council) offer eight (8) individual plots on this land for residents to rent under annual renewable licences, for an annual fee of £35.62 per plot. This is up for review now ahead of fresh licences being issued in July. To cover the £30 per annum increase in the lease rental to DCC, I will propose that the annual licence fee increases by £3.75 to £39.37.
5. By signing the annual licence, plot holders agree to abide by its conditions, and to join the Ide Allotments Association, whose current Chair is David Farrow. David's role is to act as the trusted intermediary, liaising as necessary between plot holders and the Parish Council's allotments co-ordinator and clerk.
6. During the last year, two plot holders – Charlotte Ives, and Ann Boyce for Ide Primary School – have given up their plots. We had three people on the waiting list, one of whom changed his mind. The remaining two – Peter Skinner and Nigel Gooding – have taken up plots. The waiting list is now empty once more.
7. Plot holders currently are:
 - #1 Peter Skinner
 - #2 David Black
 - #3 Karen Edmonds Brown
 - #4 Colin Tiley
 - #5 David Farrow
 - #6 Ben Houghton
 - #7 Nigel Gooding
 - #8 Nick Irving
8. Plot holders each hold a set of keys to access the school grounds to the allotments.

9. The Parish Clerk makes the arrangements for keys to be cut and distributed; holds the waiting list; liaises with those on, and wishing to join or leave the waiting list; liaises with the school in allotments matters; collects the annual licence fees; issues the annual fresh licences; and pays the annual rent to DCC.

10. The Co-ordinator liaises with DCC over the terms and text of the lease; with our legal representative in matters of the lease; with the Chair of the allotments Association as needed; responds to any complaints in liaison with the clerk (no complaints received in the last year); and makes an annual inspection visit to the allotments to confirm that the terms of the licence are being observed. The last visit was made on 1 May 2023, when one plot was found to be poorly managed (the plot holder has since undertaken to work on their plot in compliance); and two other plots were found to be in need of attention, while in the process of transfer to new holders. In other respects the allotments are well used, expertly cultivated, and managed with care and obvious enthusiasm. I will visit again in June.

11. **Proposal:** to post the list of plot holders, the number of people on the waiting list, a copy of the licence and a copy of the lease on the Village Website, to be updated as required.

12. **Proposal:** to increase the annual licence fee for a plot to £39.37 with immediate effect.

13. **Proposal:** votes of thanks to Charlotte McGregor and to David Farrow.

END

NCAB 9 May 2023