



# Saltersgill Allotment Association

Founded 2014

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9<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Member

## **Re: 2019/20 Rent Payment Details and Demand**

I am writing to inform you that the annual rent for 2020/21 is now due.

I'm sorry that the Annual General Meeting, due to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> May, had to be cancelled because of lock-down due to Covid-19. However, the Committee has decided to maintain the approach adopted over the past few years, whereby the annual rent for the current year will increase in line with the rents charged by Middlesbrough Council, to £75 for a larger plot and £39 for a smaller plot.

**If, however, payment is made before the end of June 2020, rents at Saltersgill will be significantly discounted to £40 and £25 respectively. If payment is not made by the end of June, the full amount of £75 (£39) may be charged – so it is in your interests to pay on time! Please note that the 2020/21 rent has been reduced by a further £5 from last year, although it is unlikely that the rent will be reduced any further in the future.**

The latest rent reduction has only been possible because we have had another successful year financially with the Association's closing Bank balance remaining at £17,534.05 (only £2.22 lower than the opening balance in April 2019). In addition the on-site shop made a surplus last year of £1,367.88 - £1,000 of which was transferred across to the main Association account to help subsidise the annual rent. The shop account now holds £3,802.84 of member's reserves, £1,140 of which is held as stock.

Middlesbrough Council has again kindly agreed to collect the rent on behalf of the Association, and there will be three ways of paying this year:

- by Credit or Debit Card, by telephoning the Council on 01642 726001;
- by Cheque made out to Middlesbrough Council, sent to FAO Cashiers, Civic Centre, Dunning Street, Middlesbrough, TS1 2RT
- by Internet, via the Middlesbrough Council website using the link [www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/allotmentpayment](http://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/allotmentpayment)

**NO PAYMENTS WILL BE TAKEN AT CENTRAL DEPOT, CARGO FLEET LANE.**

Whichever method you choose, you will need to provide your name, the site name (Saltersgill) and your plot number.

A copy of the Association's accounts is now available on our website, but it is worth noting that last year we spent significantly more on rubbish collection (there was a single charge of £250 for an asbestos removal incident) and site security in an attempt to keep on top of our two biggest, ongoing maintenance issues. All tenants are again urged to refrain from bringing rubbish from home to dispose of on site – it is unreasonable to expect fellow tenants to pay for your rubbish collection!!

Also, £1,080 was spent on capital improvements, mainly on a new trailer to cope with the rubbish collection and hedge-cutting responsibilities and obtaining some supplies for the shop.

### **Committee Members**

Keith Lewis (Chairman), Marvin Adkin (Secretary), Craig Storey (Treasurer),  
Chris Allen, John Appleby, Eric Benson, Joe Fisher,  
Philip Gibson, Billy Holdsworth and Sybil Taylor.



The Committee is very keen to improve communication with tenants and the best way of doing this is by email or text message. That is why I have attached a short form at the bottom of this letter asking again for the relevant information. Virtually every tenant must have a mobile phone these days, yet we only have 45 members' details out of over 200 tenants. It really would help us all if you would share your details with us. You are therefore asked to either return the completed form via email to the address shown below or hand it in at the on-site shop over the coming weeks. Thank you.

I would also like to draw your attention to your obligations under the Rules and Regulations of Tenancy (copies of which can be viewed on our website or in the site shop during normal opening times) - to keep your plot clean, tidy, weed-free and in a good state of cultivation. Whilst most members do fulfil this obligation, there are a few who do not. If anyone has a particular problem preventing them from cultivating their plot (e.g. temporary illness), please contact a member of the Committee to discuss your situation. If you do not get in touch, it will be assumed that you no longer intend to cultivate your plot and the Committee will begin eviction procedures.

**Council Update – Coronovirus**

The council's position remains the same and follows government guidance on being outdoors and public gatherings. Allotment sites remain open as they have been since government lockdown measures were put in place, however tenants are reminded to take extra care and adhere to social distancing guidelines and not to gather in groups on allotment plots.

Yours Sincerely

Keith Lewis

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**MEMBERSHIP FORM 2020**

We are trying to keep people updated at the present time and also update our records. Would you please therefore complete the slip below and return as follows:

shop@saltersgillallotments.co.uk

or alternatively hand in at the shop or to a Committee Member – thank you.

**Name:** .....

**E-mail:** ..... **Plot No.** .....

**Mobile No:** ..... **Landline:**.....