

**Saltersgill Allotment Association**

**Founded 2014**

Middlesbrough Council c/o Saltersgill Allotments,

 1st Floor Resolution House,

Cargo Fleet Lane,

 Middlesbrough, TS3 8A

**info@saltersgillallotments.co.uk**

**Date 15th April 2021**

Dear Member

**Yearly Review and AGM**

Welcome once again to the yearly review. We remain in strange times with the pandemic interrupting our lives, and over the past 12 months we have sadly lost several members, let’s hope they find a weed free plot on the other side.

The first piece of news I need to give you is that Keith Lewis has decided to step down as Chairman for personal reasons. As a result of Keith’s resignation, the Committee have asked Peter Whelan to return as Chairman and he has agreed, this is with the understanding that all committee positions will be reviewed when that AGM takes place. At that time, you will be contacted regarding voting rights and reminded of the protocol regarding standing and voting for the committee.

As you will recall our AGM for 2020 had to be postponed as a result of the pandemic and unfortunately the position remains the same for 2021. This time however we are planning to rearrange the AGM for a date in the autumn. Further information will follow regarding the time and place.

Over the last 12 months we have encountered difficult times which has resulted in the need to spend more than we had expected.

The cost of water has increased by quite a large amount. We believe that this is due to the extreme weather. It may be that we have to take this into account in the future. We have discussed the possibility of turning the water off during the winter months. We accept that this would be inconvenient to tenants, mainly those with livestock. Several local allotment sites already restrict water during the winter months. We will advise further, later in the year.

The country has recently suffered from Avian flu which affected our livestock. The Government ordered all livestock to be kept indoors. It has been noted that some tenants disregarded the order. We must comply with such orders in the future as failure to do so could result in all livestock being removed from the site. Billy Holdsworth and Denis McNally, who are responsible for ensuring that all livestock are cared for. Regular inspections will be carried out and advice given where required. If livestock is being cared for incorrectly then appropriate action will be taken.

The cost of vermin control has also risen, and again this could be due to the pandemic with the rats deserting the town centres while the shops and restaurants are closed and seeking easier pickings. Eric Benson and Joe Fisher are now responsible for distributing the poison. We need to comply with Government guidelines, which means that the poison will no longer be handed to the tenant and will be stored in the appropriate area, with a record being kept of how much poison and where it has been distributed. Please co-operate fully with Joe and Eric to ensure that we comply with Government guidelines.

We are currently looking into the cost of removing the rubbish from the site. We need to point out to members that household waste **MUST NOT** be brought onto the site for disposal. Members are allowed to have 2 bags of waste collected on the first Monday of the month. Please ensure that the bags **DO NOT** contain any wood, soil, or vegetation.

The shop has since its conception been a great success and we owe Sybil and Chris who over the years have ensured that the proceeds have helped reduce the plot rent. Sybil has decided that the time has come to pass the reins to someone new. Is anyone interested in helping to run the shop? We do need help, if we cannot find anyone to help run the shop then we may have to close it. If you can spare time, then please contact a Committee member.

We have had problems with the security camera which was beyond our control. We have now had WIFI equipment installed which we are reliably told will rectify the problem.

Attempts were made to mend the potholes on the Central Avenue. A contractor was employed to carry out the work, regrettably the problem was not solved and we need revisit this problem. We have recently contacted three contractors to seek a price for the repairs to all potholes. This matter is currently being dealt with and we hope work will start in the near future.

As a result of the extra expenditure, we regret that rents need to be increased. It is however hoped that in the years to come we can reduce them. It should be noted that the Council rents are currently £75.00 for a large plot and £39.00 for the smaller plots. Saltersgill rents will now be in line with the Council rents; however, if rents are paid in full and direct to the Council by the last day in June the cost will be for large plots reduced to £50.00 and for a small plot £30.00. All rents need to be paid to the Council who are handling our payment system. If payment is not paid direct to the Council and before the end of June then the full amount of £79.00/£39.00 is due. Payments to the Council can be made online at <https://www.middlesbrough.gov.uk/environment-and-public-protection/allotments> or by phone at 01642 726001

We very much regret having to take this action. In order to remain self-managed, we need to make these increases.

The committee has remained virtually the same since its conception. We understand that members do not wish to commit to the running of the site; however, we would greatly appreciate any input as to how the site can be maintained or improved. If any member has any ideas or wishes to be involved in the running of the site, they should contact a committee member. The site belongs to its members. Please think about what you can do to help.

In order to maintain the site all members must abide by the rules and therefore a copy is enclosed

Wishing all members, a happy growing season

Yours sincerely

Saltersgill Allotment Association

**Committee Members**

**Chairman Peter Whelan, Secretary John Appleby, Treasure Craig Story.**

**Billy Holdsworth, Keith Lewis, Sybil Taylor, Eric Benson, Phillip Gibson,**

**Denis McNally, Chris Allen, Joseph Fisher.**