

FRODSHAM TOWN COUNCIL

ALLOTMENT REPORT FOR PP&R 28.2.2022

Cllrs Caroline Ashton (Chair of PP&R) and Cllr Lucy Sumner

To receive and discuss a report about the 3 Allotments

59 (a) Report to be noted and (b) To agree actions to be taken

Background to report.

Email to Town Clerk on 11 February from Councillor Sumner requesting the monthly NTC Allotment reports for the last 12 months: -

I was just wondering if I would be able to receive a copy of the last 12 months' worth of monthly allotment reports from Northwich Town Council for Churchfields, London Road and Ashton Drive?

The response that she received was:

At Caroline's request, the allotment sites have not been inspected this year.

Cllr Sumner has requested the evidence of this request. To date nothing has been received by Cllr Sumner.

The SLA awarded and commencing on 1.1.22 contains the following and was sent in her email to the Town Clerk:

Extract from Cllr Sumner's email of Wednesday 16 February 2022

Churchfields	Litter pick / inspection	12	12	Monthly report	£12.50	£150.00
London Road	Litter pick / inspection	12	12	Monthly report	£12.50	£150.00
Ashton Drive	Litter pick / inspection	12	12	Monthly report	£12.50	£150.00

I'm just wondering when this was ratified by a committee as Caroline alone is not able to make the decision to removed items from the SLA.

If this was a decision taken by the council when was there an adjustment in the monthly charge of the service level agreement, in which:

SLA NTC 1st April 2020

Litter pick and inspection of Crowmere, Hob Hey Wood, Manley Road Copse, Marl Pits, Marshlands, War Memorial, Community Centre Field, Churchfield Allotments, London Road Allotments, Ashton Drive Allotments and 9x defibrillators will be £171.50 per visit based upon 12 visits (£2058).

Furthermore, if the decision has been made that litter picks were not required at allotment sites was there a reason why they were re-added to our current SLA at a cost of £12.50 per visit per site on a monthly base totalling £450 a year?

All allotment holders are more than capable of looking after their own allotments. They are very proud of them as is demonstrated in the annual Councillor Visits report, See below.

Another anomaly that requires clarifying is Hob Hey Wood has not had monthly visits for over 12 months and is not included on the current SLA. The WI who look after Manley Copse requested that the monthly visits cease but were told that this was not possible.

(b) To agree actions to be taken

Clarification is sought on Allotment Activities carried out by a contractor. It is necessary to look at historical activities and charges and what will be carried out going forward.

All activities and charges need documenting and any corrections made as soon as possible.

ANNUAL VISITS TO ALLOTMENTS SUNDAY 15 August 2021

Churchfields Allotments (5 allotment holders present)

The completed water supply to the site has been extremely well received by the allotment holders. It has tremendously improved their situation for watering their crops.

No issues. All allotments taken.

London Road Allotments (3 allotment holders present)

A number of issues were raised and discussed.

- The hedge bordering the allotments onto the public footpath. The outside has been very well cut. However, this was done by an FTC contractor when it should have been carried out by CWaC. The allotment holders wanted the inside and top to be done by FTC.
- the first allotment on the right-hand side as you enter is badly overgrown and is vacant. This was identified on previous visit (2019).
Update required from the TC on who she has approached to take on this allotment. It needs allocating as a matter of urgency.
- Guttering on one of the sheds requires "sorting" to maximise rain water collection. Allotment holders notified by TC last December that it would be raised at PP&R. This has not been done.

Ashton Drive Allotments (1 allotment holder present)

No issues currently. It was noted that one allotment holder is using a gardening technique that might in the future lead to a problem.