



SOUTHMINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Allotment Holders Meeting held at Southminster Memorial Hall, High Street, Southminster on 11th February 2025 at 19.00 HRS

Committee Members Present:

Mr Plumb, Cllr Harrold and Mrs Smith

In attendance: J Jeffery Parish Clerk and 20 Allotments Holders.

25/01 Apologies – There were none.

25/02 Approve minutes of last meeting on 14th November 2023.
Proposed by Mr Neall, seconded by Ms Dorrington, agreed.

25/03 Matter arising from the last minutes.
An allotment holder asked how much was received from the sale of the yellow tractor, the Clerk will confirm.

25/04 Discussion re rents and Ear Marked Reserves.

The Clerk read the following resolution from the Parish Council meeting held on 16th September 2024.

The Allotments Chair Mr Plumb has advised that Allotment Holders are happy with the reserves accumulated and reported at the 17th July 2024 meeting ref 24/181. Allotment Holders would prefer the Annual Allotment Holders meeting to be held in October 2024 to allow for the end of the season. However, Mr Plumb has informed that he has spoken with many of the Allotment Holders who are happy for there to be no increase in rents for 2024/25 as a reflection of the reserves.

To date Allotments Ear Marked reserves of £1605.34

Standing Notice of one year for any increase in fees for 2025/2026

To discuss and pass any resolution as necessary.

Cllr Fluker commented that he had heard complaints regarding unkept allotment plots at Pump Mead Allotments, Cllr Harrold and Cllr Fuker will inspect.

Cllr Harrold commented that if the Allotment Holders meeting is held in October, fees would not be increased until December. Cllr Fluker proposed an increase of 5%, Cllr Harrold informed that there had been an agreement that should there be more than £500 in reserve, then no increase should be made

Cllr Fluker proposed no increase should be made for year 2024/2025, however, the allotment reserves should be increased to £2000.00, seconded by Cllr Cleary. Carried by ascent
Cllr Harold informed that the trailer emptying is currently carried out at no cost by a local farmer, however, this service may be withdrawn

|Signed by Mr P Plumb, Allotments Chair

An Allotment Holder asked what the justification was for a reserve of £2,000, Cllr Harrold will take back to the next Parish Council meeting.

25/05 Report and discuss any issues arising.

It was reported that the fencing to the allotments needs to be patched as badgers and foxes are entering the allotments, the Clerk will contact Maldon District Council to seek confirmation on ownership of fence.

It was reported there is a caravan at Pump Mead Garages which appears to have someone living in it, it was advised that the land is owned by Moat Housing.

It was asked if two bags of winter salt could be delivered to Pump Mead Allotments, the Parish Clerk will arrange.

Mrs Smith advised of the intention to hold a BBQ at Pantile Hill Allotments on 31st August 2025, with highest sunflower, largest marrow and mis shaped veg competitions.

An Allotment Holder recommended creating an email list for mail shots to Allotment Holders.

25/06 Next Meeting – June 2025

23/13 Meeting Closure.

Meeting closed at 7.28pm