

Committee	FINANCE COMMITTEE
Date	21 April 2020
Agenda Item	7d

To approve an increase in charges for the allotments

In the budget for 2020/21 it was proposed that £1000 be allocated for installation of taps. It was also proposed that the charge for the rent of the plot should be increased by 50p per rod. There are 185 allotments, made up of 1300 rods, at a cost of £3.50 per rod. Raising the cost of a rod by 50p would generate further income of £650, in addition to the £3200 already generated by the allotments. The charges at the allotments have not been raised for over 3 years. (Due to the timing of invoices, and the fact that these increases were in the approved budget, some new allotment holders have already been informed of the increased rate.)

At the time that this was proposed, HTC had been told by Anglian Water that the installation of 3 taps would cost around £1000. The rent increase was intended to cover the cost of the water used.

However, when Anglian Water was approached again over the installation of the taps, their estimate had grown to £34,000 for 2 taps, due to the distance of the allotments from the water main. It was agreed at the meeting on 16 March 2020, that HTC would buy a water tank for the Upper Fenn Road allotments instead of pursuing the idea of a tap. It was possible to buy two tanks at the price estimated for one, and this cost is well covered by the 19/20 surplus.

The income generated by the increase in charges for the allotments could legitimately go towards the cost of repairing the ramp at Parsonage Street.

There will be no other extra costs to HTC in water charges from Anglia Water.

Recommendation: that HTC approves the increase in allotment charges.



Sarah Greateorex
Town Clerk