

Allotment Working Group Report

February 2024

Ivers Parish Council (IPC) established a working group in June 23. The task set for the working group was to understand why The Parish wanted to increase the allotment costs above the going rate in the local area. Currently, IPC give a discount to existing allotment holders, this could be up to half price. The minimum charge per plot is £45 plus water costs for the smaller plots, then the discount is applied. Generally the majority of existing allotment holders receive a discount bringing the cost to equivalent to the old rate of £30 per plot.

Since 2021 an additional water charge has been applied. For context, The previous charge was £30 per plot inclusive of water and regardless of size.

Context

IPC is outside Greater London, nestling between Slough and Uxbridge.

Traditionally an allotment is made up of 10 poles - or 250 sqm

Iver Allotment is owned and run by Parish Council.

Iver Heath Allotments are owned by Bucks and Parish lease the land for 7 years at a time £660 per year and run by Ivers Parish Council

Comparisons

Hillingdon Borough charges £33.50 per 5 poles.

Slough charges from £3 to £5.92 per pole, the dearer price will have better facilities like full fencing around the whole site making the site safer and more secure.

Stoke Poges charge £45 for a 10 pole allotment

There is significant variation between sites regarding the provision of water and if this is a chargeable item.

Recommendations from the Working Group.

The Working Group has met twice since its inception.

Our recommendations as the Allotments the Working Group to the Ivers Parish Council are:

1. Adjusting the way the plots are measured at the moment we have three sizes

The Pole system should be adopted as is the UK norm for allotments. The Pole system identifies that IPC offers allotments ranging from 3 Poles to 9 Poles.

2. A simplified charging system, where every plot attracts a minimum charge per plot of £35 up to a designated size, expressed as Poles.

Then, for every additional Pole a standard charge of £4.50 per Pole would apply.

Please see attached document that shows the sizes of the plots in both Allotment sites.

In addition to price comparison information the Working Group also considered if the charges would reasonably cover costs incurred by IPC that relate to individual tenancies.

The Working Group have estimated the IPC costs in three areas on an annualised basis:

1. Administration of the existing tenancies (annual lease renewal, invoicing, inquiries etc.) = £421. Which represents 30 mins per plot per year.
2. General maintenance of common ground (generally lawn mowing) = £135. Which represents 10 hours of general maintenance per year.
3. Lease to Buckinghamshire Council for the IH site £660
4. Costs associated with setting up new tenancies should be reflected in joining costs.
5. Special projects – outdoor labour teams, should have funding determined on a case-by-case basis. For example, recovery of costs from a former tenant; grants and so on.

The Working Group are confident that the recommended pricing structure and fees would cover the costs to Parish Council in providing the allotments to the community.

For further information

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