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**Report author:** Adil Iftakhar – Clerk

**Report to** Full Council

**Date:** 05/06/2024

**Decision Required:** No

**Subject:** Allotment Gardens on the North West side of, Uxbridge Road, Slough

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Does the report contain information which has been identified as confidential?

Yes  No

If yes, please specify the reason that the report is confidential below:

N/A

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### 1. Purpose of this report

1.1 To provide information to full council on the allotments, known formally as the allotment gardens on the North West side of, Uxbridge Road, Slough as requested by members.

### 2. Recommendation/s

2.1 Parish Council is asked to note the contents of this report.

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### 3. Summary of key points

3.1 The allotment is owned freehold under title number BK409783, the proprietor is the Wexham Court Parish Council. The allotment consists of 3.4 acres of agricultural land which has been divided into 46 plots, thus having 46 tenants.

The Parish Council believes that if there is demand for allotments, they have a statutory duty to provide a sufficient number of plots, in accordance with Section

23 of the Small Holdings and Allotments Act (1908). The relevant sections, which members should note are as follows:

- Section 23 – refers to an evidenced demand for allotments, which activates the mandatory obligation of provision and letting, on a local authority. The actual wording is:

*“On a presentation in writing to the council of any parish, by any six registered parliamentary electors (persons who are liable to pay an amount in respect of council tax) or residents in the parish, that the circumstances of the parish are such that it is the duty of the council to take proceedings under this part of the Act therein, the council shall take such representations into consideration.”*

- Section 25 – powers of compulsory acquisition of land for allotments on a local authority, via District/Unitary for Parishes.
- Section 27 – provides for letting to a co-operative. Moreover: where land cannot be let as allotments, it can be let for any other purpose; provided that it can be brought back into allotment use on 12 months’ notice.
- Section 30 – where a local authority discovers that a tenant lives more than one mile outside the area for which the allotments are provided; the local authority can serve notice; and one month after any such notice the tenancy determines automatically, by effluxion of time.

3.2 There is duty to consider providing allotments but does not mean we must. For example, the cost of provision may be prohibitive for some small councils or appropriate land may not be available, easily let or purchased. The current waiting list has gone down significantly, as of writing this report, there are 4 individuals on the list. The number has decreased due to 13 plots being tenanted within the 2023-2024. Out of the current 46 allotment holders, there are 34 tenants who reside from within the Parish equating to 70.6% parishioners and 29.4% non-parishioners. The current rent charged ranges from £35 - £100 and is dependent on plot size, as well as whether the tenant is a precept payer or not.

3.3 Most recently, the lock has been changed due to complaints around theft, furthermore, keys have been handed over with a £20 deposit being taken. We are currently in negotiations with Slough Borough Council in relation to acquiring additional land of 0.753 acres above the allotments to carry out an extension so that more parishioners can grow fruit and vegetables as it brings about health and wellbeing benefits.

## **4 Financial Implications and Budget Provisions**

4.1 The rental income from the allotments is minimal in terms of our income stream. The total rent for the allotments for the 2024-25 period is expected to be £3,000 per annum. The Parish Council £20 key deposit will be refundable upon return of the key; however, proof of payment must be provided by the allotment holder.

## **5 Policy Implications**

5.1 None arising for this report as we already have Allotment Rules which were adopted in 2020.

## **6 Background Papers**

6.1 [WCPC-ALLOTMENT-RULES.pdf \(wexhamcourtparishcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.wexhamcourtparishcouncil.gov.uk/WCPC-ALLOTMENT-RULES.pdf)

Further Information

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