BRIEFING NOTE

To: Members of Community Affairs Committee

Re: Albourne Road Allotments Rent Review

1. The purpose of this note is to provide information concerning the rent and water fees for the Albourne Road Allotments and a comparison with neighbouring Councils so that Councillors can decide whether to increase the rent/water fees for 2017/18.

2. Background. The current rent/water fees (2015/16) are £3.57 per rod. The fees will go up to £4.00/rod in October 2016, as agreed by Community Affairs at its meeting on 20 August 2015. The fees are reviewed on an annual basis.

3. Information about their allotment fees was requested from 4 neighbouring Parish/Town Councils: Hassocks PC, Lindfield PC, Cuckfield PC and Burgess Hill TC.

Parish/Town Council	Current rent fees	Future rent fees	Services provided	Notes
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common PC	£3.57/rod (2015/16)	£4.00/rod (2016/17)	Includes water and one rubbish clearance	
Hassocks PC	£6.80/rod (2 plot sizes, 2.5 rods = £17.00; 5 rods = £34.00	No plans to increase	Includes water.	Formula = £5 charge for water usage/year for 3 years until Oct 2016, £10 charge towards water installation, and rent increased for inflation.
Lindfield PC	£3.30/rod	£3.50/rod next year	Includes water.	
Cuckfield PC	£4.00/rod	No plans to increase since they raised it last year from £3.50/rod.	Includes water.	
Burgess Hill TC	Variety of charges depending on plot size. (£8/rod for 5 rods; £10.25 for 2.5 rods etc)	Inflationary increase for next year but subject to a review if running costs start to escalate.	Includes water supply and a skip once a year.	

Therefore, the Committee is asked to consider the various rents from neighbouring areas and our most recent increase and decide whether it wishes to increase the allotment rent/water fees for 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Committee decides whether to increase the rent/water fees for 2017/18 and if so, to what amount.

Roberta Taylor, Assistant Clerk
12 July 2016