

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Special Environment Committee**  
**Tuesday 23 April 2024**  
**Decision Report**

**Collection of Allotment Rents - Bolam Small Holdings and Allotment Association (BSHAA)**

**Recommendations**

- **The Committee consider the request from the BSHAA to allow rents to be collected, as previously, commencing April each year.**

Ward

Cowpen

Risk Management

If this request was considered favourably, the collection of rents/rent period, for the sites linked with this association would differ to the other association, and sites under the responsibility of the Council. This request if agreed to, would not cause any operational issues for the Council.

Objective

To further promote the environmental, social, and economic wellbeing of the town and its community, with the provision of Allotments.

Report

At an Environment Committee last September, it was agreed to change the yearly allotment rent period to commence on the 1 October each year, from the 1 April, starting in 2024.

The affect of this meant that plot holders would receive an invoice for the period April to September, and then from October for a year.

This change had the support of the 2 associations within the town who manage a number of our sites.

Following this decision, letters confirming the change of rent collection periods were sent out.

Since then, the Association's committee have reconsidered this change and would like to revert back to the annual collection of rents, commencing in April each year. See Appendix 1.

Should this Committee agree with this request it will have no operational impact for the Council's Officers, and they would be operating the previously successful rent collection process and ongoing management of the sites.

In summary, a reason behind the change in the accounting period was to assist the monitoring of unkept allotment plots and in reality, this is not as much a problem for the association.

**Malcolm Wilkinson**  
**Deputy Town Clerk**  
**16 April 2024**