

Godstone Parish Council

(incorporating the Villages of Godstone, South Godstone and Blindley Heath)

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Salisbury Road Allotments Newsletter 2021

The Godstone Parish Council (GPC) would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, and happy and fruitful digging for 2021. Due to the Covid-19 situation it has not been possible to hold an annual allotment holders meeting. It was felt that a newsletter designed to provide information and to remind allotment holders of both theirs and the councils responsibilities, would be beneficial. Going forward there is a plan to produce a newsletter every six months, or more frequently if there is significant news. We would be delighted to include articles from allotment holders reflecting on the highs and lows of working on an allotment.

- Under the allotments Act SHAA 1908 there is a legal requirement for Parish Councils to provide land for allotments for parishioners. However, there is no legal requirement for the Parish Council to do anymore than provide anything other than the land.
- Over the last five years, more than £20,000 has been spent on the general upkeep and maintenance of the grounds of the allotments. This has included: the removal of years of waste both garden and fly tipped waste, the construction of two compost bins, and the removal of trees to provide additional allotment space. In comparison to this cost, the amount of income for the allotments over this period was approximately £3,500 highlighting to other parishioners that it would be unfair for the council to continue to subsidise the few parishioners using the allotments. Whilst no decision has yet been taken by Godstone Parish Council, discussions are ongoing regarding a modest rent increase this year with a more substantial increase in 2022.

- Please note that allotment holders are responsible for the removal of waste or unwanted equipment from their plot, in a manner that is considerate to the other plot holders. A recent example of where this has occurred was in late November 2020 unwanted equipment appeared on plot 17 (see photos below), a very well cared for allotment. Please could the person responsible remove the equipment from the plot. For further information regarding both your obligations and that of the Parish Council, please familiarise yourself with the 'Allotment Tenancy Agreement'.



- After reviewing the current system in place for the physical numbering of the allotment plots, in the early part of 2021, Godstone Parish Council will be replacing the present numbers with more robust markers and will renumber plots in a more logical way.
- Over the last few years GPC have suggested a possible way forward to keep the channels of communication open with the council, would be to set up an Allotment Society. This would give an open forum for all allotment holders, to discuss all manner of topics and concerns. To add an incentive for someone to manage the Allotment Society the council would be happy to offer the volunteer one years free rent on their plot.
- 2020 has seen a substantial uptake of spare allotment plots and new allotment holders taking over previously owned plots. At this time there are no spare allotments, but we are happy to provide a waiting list. The

year has seen some excellent plots, and for the first time in living memory chickens have now taken up residence on two plots.

- These photos are examples of well cultivated and very productive plots.

