

Copmanthorpe Parish Council

Allotments

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q1. What are allotment plots used for?

A1. Allotments are intended for leisure purposes only, i.e. growing normal garden selections of vegetables, fruit and flowers; for personal use and consumption, (not for commercial use). To this end allotment holders are able to utilise a small greenhouse, frame, poly tunnel or shed. Allotment holders are required to keep the plot clean, reasonably free from weeds and otherwise in a proper state of cultivation and good condition. (For more details on all of the above please see tenancy agreement).

Q2. Where are the allotments located?

A2. The allotments are on Temple Lane. Leaving the village towards Acaster Malbis the allotments are on the left immediately after the railway bridge. Approaching the village on Temple Lane from the direction of Acaster Malbis the allotments are on the right immediately before the bridge. Access is through the gate set back from the roadway, vehicle access is provided for loading and unloading only; no parking is permitted on site.

Q3. Who owns the allotments?

A3. Allotments are provided as a local amenity and are run on a not for profit basis. In Copmanthorpe all of the allotments are owned by the City of York Council and are leased by the Parish Council. The Parish Council in turn sub-lets individual allotment plots to members of the Local Community.

The Lease arrangement with the City of York Council is on a 21 year basis with rental reviews every third year. Any changes in the rent as part of the three year review are passed on to the allotment holders in accordance with individual tenancy agreements, the calculation of the costs are communicated in advance and distributed on a pro-rata basis (according to the number of allotments held) for the allotment site as a whole.

Q4. Who manages the allotments?

A4. The general management of the allotments is conducted by the Allotments Sub Committee, and the Roads and Footpaths Committee of the Parish Council. This Committee meets regularly and reports on a monthly basis to the full Parish Council. The Committee considers and reports on all new applications, allotment tenancies, quarterly inspections, enforcement of agreements, maintenance and development of the amenity, non-compliance issues and general health & safety matters.

Q5. How are the various allotment plots identified?

A5. Each plot is identified with a unique number which is shown on the individual tenancy agreement. A full list of plot holders is maintained by the Parish Council.

Q6. Who can apply?

A6. Any resident of Copmanthorpe, who is over 18 years of age, may apply for an allotment.

Q7. How can I apply?

A7. An Application form is available on the Parish Council Web Site (www.copmanthorpeparishcouncil.org.uk). If there are no plots available at the time of application the request will be placed on a waiting list.

Q8. How many allotment plots are there?

A8 54

Q9. How many allotment holders are there?

A9 45

Q10. How many people are currently on the waiting list?

A10. The number varies please contact Diane Greenwell, Clerk to the Parish Council, for the latest figure.

Q11. What is the current waiting time for a new application?

A11. Currently about six months but the time depends on the number of applicants on the waiting list and the number of current allotment holders choosing to give up their tenancies.

Q12. How is the rental charge calculated?

A12. The annual rental charge is made up of three components; the rental cost of the amenity as determined by CYC, the cost of water rates and a small amount for general running expenses. The total amount is calculated and divided by the number of allotments held. Individuals are then billed in accordance with their tenancy agreement.

Q13. What is the current annual rental charge for an allotment?

A13 £19:00 per plot (2009)

Q14. If I obtain an allotment are there any rules I must abide by?

A14. The rules pertaining to the tenancy of an allotment can be found in the tenancy agreement issued by the Parish Council. Tenancies are agreed on a yearly basis, commencing in April of each year. When allocated an allotment the tenant agrees to pay rent to the Parish Council twelve months in advance, or part year in advance, depending on the tenancy commencement date. Full payment is due on issue of the agreement and rent demand and is non-refundable. Failure to abide by the rules of the tenancy may lead to termination of the agreement by the issuing of a notice served personally or by leaving a notice at the tenant's last known address or by affixing the notice to the plot.

Q15. What if I want more than one allotment plot?

Note: No applications for a second allotment will be considered if there are new applicants waiting for an allotment.

A15(a) Prior to year 2009/10: Existing plot holders who hold more than one allotment will be awarded grandfather rights (uninterrupted right to tenancy) to any additional plots they hold unless they are found at some future date to be in contravention of their tenancy agreement whereupon the prescribed actions as detailed in the tenancy agreement will apply.

A15(b) Commencing year 2009/10 onwards: The granting of an additional Allotment to an individual will be on the strict understanding that if, in any year, a new application is received from a non-allotment holder, that the additional allotment held by them will be returned to the Parish Council for re allocation. Holders of a second Allotment are advised to consider carefully the level of resource they invest in a second plot as they may be required to give it up.

In this regard the Parish Council undertake to provide the existing tenant of a second Allotment with 12 month notice in writing expiring on or before 1 April or on or after 30 September in any year.