

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Thursday 23 February 2023
Decision Report 2

Association Lease Agreements

Recommendation

The Committee RESOLVE to recommend to Council to continue the lease agreements with BSHAA and NNDDAA from August 2023 for a period of seven year in line with the existing agreement.

Ward

Newsham, Cowpen & Isabella

Risk Management

There is already provision within the lease agreements for the set management fee which both Associations receive. Officers still monitor both associations and the sites as they are still our ultimate responsibility.

Objective

Allotments are now considered another way of people leading healthier and active lifestyles. This is achieved through exercise and eating food which is grown naturally.

Report

At present the 2 Associations, Blyth Small Holdings and Allotments Association (BSHAA) and the Newsham and New Delaval Allotments Association (NNDDAA), oversee the management of 316 allotments belonging to Blyth Town Council. Similar lease agreements have been in place with both associations previously under Blyth Valley Borough Council.

Both associations entered into new 7-year lease agreements which were signed on 16 August 2016. Both associations oversee the collection of rents, re-let plots as they become available as well as other management roles. Both associations receive a 25% management fee - BSHAA receive £4775.00 and NNDDAA receive £ 2975.00.

Both associations offer a similar advisory role to their tenants as does the Council, but they by the very nature of their role do so on an out of hours and weekend basis also.

Both associations are very active with local resident groups and other community groups.

The current leases mirror the existing tenancy agreements that are issued to tenants on all the sites managed by the associations and BTC. This ensures consistency across all sites. Officers carry out regular inspections and monitoring to ensure the sites are being run in accordance with the rules.

D Clough
General Services Officer

9 February 2023