

Agenda Item 8

The Three-Year Plan: Allotments & Garages:

The Draft 3 Year Plan included the following under Allotments and Garage Sites

1. Allotments & Garage Sites:

Year One:

- 1) **Pasture Lane No. 1** plots 32,33,36,37 removal of detritus from past usage, £500 set aside for this work.
- 2) **Pasture Lane No. 2 and Lower Parkhill:** Repairs to the access roads £4000 has been identified in the 2024-25 budget but the cost will probably exceed that figure but remedial work can be started to improve the worst areas with budgeting in future years to rectify all the problems.
- 3) **Lowerclough Street:** Replacement of gatepost budget set aside £500. A new galvanised gatepost has been ordered and will be installed when received.
- 4) **Hill Top:** Garage needs clearing ready for re-letting £300 has been identified for this work due to lack of space at Hill Top a skip will be best dropped at Holmefield House and the rubbish brought to the skip.
- 5) **Skips:** £1000 has been identified for skips, the provision of skips should be targeted at specific problems in conjunction with plot holders. Ad hoc provision of skips through holiday weekends results in fly tipping use for non-allotment generated waste.
- 6) **Vacant Plots:** Several plots need clearing this will have to be assessed and budgeted for over the next few years.

Year Two/Three:

- 1) **Pasture Lane No. 2 and Lower Parkhill:** Funding should be budgeted for further upgrades of the roads.
- 2) **Vacant Plots:** Clearing additional plots.
- 3) **Lowerclough Street:** Following on from the refurbishment of one of the communal polytunnels refurbishment of another should be included in the budget for 2026-27 with the 3rd in the 2027-28 budget.

The Clerk suggests the following revisions to the Three-Year Plan now that the available finances for the year 2025-26 are known. That this year's work priorities be ordered as funding allows and time scales introduced for the work to be completed or where the work fits within the plan for funding purposes:

The budget for 2025-26:

Allotments		
L1	Allotment Expenses	2620.00
L1a	Garage Clearance	300.00
L1b	Gate Lowerclough	500.00
L1c	Past Lane 1	500.00
L1d	Skips	1000.00
L1e	Road Repairs	4000.00
L3	Asbestos Removal	1863.00
L4	Water Rates	2225.00
	Total	13008.00

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The figures in L1a, L1b, L1c, L1d, L1e were vired into these new headings from underspend on the 2024-25 budget and were not based on an actual cost but as a primer to start these works. The Council need to select their priorities and budget further funds to start these essential works.

Works to be carried out this financial Year as Year One:

- 1) **L1c: Pasture Lane No. 1 plots 32,33,36,37:** Removal of detritus from past usage, cost £1450.00 + vat this work has needed doing for several years and will complete the work necessary to bring these allotments into use. **June/July**
- 2) **L1a: Hill Top:** Garage needs emptying as the Council has a potential tenant for this garage, the work will be carried out by Council staff the only cost being the skip hire. The cost of the skip will be met by the income generated through rental. **June/July**
- 3) **L1b: Gate Post Lowerclough Street:** This work has been ordered and will be carried out as soon as possible: **Jun-Aug**
- 4) **L1e: Track at Bullholme:** The Clerk has asked for a quote for this work in two phases as some of the pruning may have to wait till after the bird nesting season. The quotes may have arrived prior to the meeting and the work can be discussed. **Jun-Mar**
- 5) **L1d: Skips:** Ordered as necessary with perhaps the August Bank Holiday being a good time.
- 6) **L3: Asbestos Lower Parkhill:** This work will be ordered later in the year when the ground cover has died back. **June/July**
- 7) **L1: Allotment Clearance:** The Council staff with possibly contractors will start to clear some plots for reletting from the existing maintenance budget.

Dependant on budget underspend latter in the year some of the other priorities for year two could be started.

Year Two projects and budget requirement:

- 1) **Pasture Lane 2 Track work:** Quotes will be sought but it could be around £4-5,000
- 2) **Polytunnel Refurbishment Lowerclough:** To refurbish one of the polytunnels at Lowerclough £1,500.00
- 3) **Vacant Plots:** Continued clearance of vacant plots and strimming of needed to relet less overgrown plots. £4,000
- 4) **Potential Asbestos Removal:** £2,000
- 5) **Potential Tree Works:** Perhaps a central pot covering tree work within all the different budget areas should be considered?
- 6) **Allotment Contingency Fund:** It may be wise to have a 20% contingency fund to cover all expenditure on allotments.
- 7) **Skips:** Budget £1,000
- 8) **New Necessary Improvements:**

Year Three projects and budget requirement:

- 1) **Polytunnel Refurbishment Lowerclough:** To refurbish one of the polytunnels at Lowerclough £1,500.00.

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- 2) Vacant Plots:** Continued clearance of vacant plots and strimming of needed to relet less overgrown plots. £4,000
- 3) Skips:** Budget £1,000
- 4) New Necessary Improvements:**
- 5) Allotment Contingency Fund:** It may be wise to have a 20% contingency fund to cover all expenditure on allotments.

Income: As Work is seen to progress allotment rents will need to rise to help cover the costs of these works. Allotment rents in Barrowford need to be at a similar level to allotments in other local areas.