

NAPTON ON THE HILL PARISH COUNCIL

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Subject: Item 14 - Access to Allotment Plots for Residents of Adjacent Parishes

Date: Monday 4th August 2025

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Purpose:

To consider and decide whether residents from neighbouring parishes—where no allotment provision currently exists—should be permitted to apply for and use allotment plots within this Parish.

Background:

The Parish Council currently manages a limited number of allotment plots, primarily offered to residents within the parish boundaries. However, enquiries have been received from individuals in adjacent parishes, where no allotments are currently available. These residents have expressed interest in accessing available plots within our parish.

As demand fluctuates and a small number of plots remain vacant or underused at times, the Council is being asked to consider whether and how access may be extended to neighbouring residents under fair and managed conditions.

Key Issues

- Ensuring **priority remains** with parish residents.
- Maintaining **fair access** while minimising unused or vacant plots.
- Considering **legal, administrative, and insurance implications** of non-resident plot holders.
- Potential need for **revised tenancy agreements** or waiting list policy updates.

Benefits:

- **Increased plot use:** Reduces the number of unused or unproductive plots.
- **Community collaboration:** Strengthens ties with surrounding parishes.
- **Additional income:** Rent from external residents contributes to allotment maintenance.
- **Environmental benefit:** More active gardening improves land stewardship and biodiversity.

Options for Consideration:

Option	Description	Notes
A	Maintain current policy – plots for parish residents only	Prioritises local use, but may leave some plots vacant
B	Allow access to adjacent parish residents only when plots are unallocated after a set period (e.g., 1 month)	Maintains priority while increasing flexibility

C	Open waiting list to adjacent parishes immediately	Increases use but may reduce availability for local residents if demand rises
Recommendation: It is recommended that the Council adopt Option B: • Allow residents of adjacent parishes to be considered for allotment plots only after all interested parish residents have been offered places, and subject to a clear waiting list policy. • This approach balances fairness to local residents with efficient land use and responds to wider community interest.		