

Witney Allotment Association

Treasurer's Report

The Annual Accounts for both 2024 and 2023 are presented to the AGM together with the comparative figures from 2022.

Salient Points:

The cash balance as at 31/12/24 (£12,852) was 26% higher than at the end of 2023. More importantly, the Reserves as at 31/12/24 (£11,172) were 16.5% higher than at 31/12/23. Each Allotment Site contributing to the profit of £1,589 for the year.

Rents for 2024 were in line with 2023 but slightly lower (3%) than 2022. The collection of rents remains a slight problem and it is recommended that the members consider (afresh) the payment of rents by standing order or direct debit from April 2026 and decide whether or not the existing rules in the Constitution are enforced (£10 penalty for late payment and possible forfeit of a tenancy if no payment by May 20th without reasonable excuse).

All costs and expenses were in line with expectations and only water charges are an ongoing issue. Water charges are increasing by 20% in April 2025 and I know that members will want to further encourage rain water collection and retention.

The NSALG fees have been increased in 2025 from £3 to £3.50 per member.

Insurance fees have been reduced by moving to a Witney based insurance broker (Howdens).

The WAA has a policy of expensing all equipment and tool purchases as they arise, rather than having an agreed policy for provision in the accounts for the use, replacement, repair and maintenance of equipment on all sites. The ongoing responsibility for hedging, fencing, gates and security etc., needs to be reviewed.

The Committee has not recommended a rent increase for 2025/26 to the members, but both the rents and the benefits of membership will need to be kept under review as costs continue to rise. With an extremely long waiting list of folk wanting to enjoy the benefits of an allotment, it is disappointing that some tenants pay their rents but do not tend to their plots as they perhaps should.

In conclusion, the Association starts the 2025/26 growing season in a healthy condition. Many thanks go to the Site Reps and many others who manage the costs and help with the collection of rents

Peter Lismer (Coopted Treasurer) 14th March 2025