Welcome to the Bressingham & Fersfield Allotment Association Annual Report 2022/23for the Parish Council

Membership – we have recruited some new plot holders but again it has been a good year with a very steady number of plot holders. We have continued with three Community Plots to produce fruit and vegetables to sell on our road side stall and for Community Fridge donations. Our junior plot holder is making good progress with his start to what we hope is a lifetime love of his allotment.

Growing season - a mixed year for weather with some challenging very hot dry spells interspersed with some normal weather but some fantastic fruit yields and we have been able to donate over 100kgs of apples/pears to the Diss Community Fridge project.

Maintenance – although the hot dry weather reduced the grass cutting we still had the normal site maintenance which involves a considerable amount of time and effort from our maintenance team.

Site security – unfortunately due to COVID we have been limited in installing additional hedges etc but we have now installed the new post and rail fence provided by the Parish Council. New gate locks have been purchased for the gates.

Parish Council – a new Allotment Officer has been appointed by the Parish Council in the autumn and he is now actively assisting us with site maintenance and the upgrade of the access road following installation of the new drainage pipe.

Finances – this year we had a small operating surplus of £213 (deficit £241 2021/22) .

Roadside stall – our stall raised £110 , down from £231 last year due we think to further reductions in foot traffic along Common Road.

Community project – our new hedge is now growing well and although we have had a few trees fail these have been replaced. We now have an established plot of fruit trees with one junior allotment plot holder who is being encouraged and helped to cultivate the Community Plots. Further wood has been purchased to develop raised beds etc

National Allotment Association – we have again joined and have been able to obtain preferential terms for both plot holder public liability and allotment site public liability insurance (as required by our tenancy agreement).

Plot amalgamation – opportunities being taken when possible amalgamating adjacent single plots into new double plots reducing pathways and general maintenance.

Carpet & rubbish removal – most plots and paths free of carpet and we are pursuing replacement with weed stop and bark.

Projects for 2023- 2024 – our main project over the coming 12 months is the Container fit out

COVID – COVID is no longer a major challenge (although there are still significant infection levels) we have a number of medically vulnerable plot holders so we have remained vigilant even though this has delayed some of our projects, the health of our plot holders remains our priority

Michelle Lanchester , Chair of Bressingham & Fersfield Allotment Association March 2023