

BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL
Environment Committee
Tuesday 10 December 2024
Decision Report

Recommendations Cultivator/Rotovator

The Committee RESOLVE to consider: To not replace the Cultivator/ Rotovator on the grounds of health and Safety and management.

A new rotovator would cost in the region of £3,500
A new cultivator would cost in the region of £3,000

Any new machine would weigh in excess of 60 kg

Ward

Not Ward Specific

Risk Management

There is no budget set a side for a replacement machine and if agreed members would have to cover the costs from balances or another budget code.

Objective

Safeguarding the Health and Safety of Blyth Town Council allotment tenants and those of the two Associations.

Report

Blyth Town Council purchased a cultivator in 2011, and it was made available for allotment holders to use free of charge. There have been no issues with the machine up to three months ago when the clutch stopped working. Suppliers have been unable to obtain the parts as they are no longer available.

A new rotavator would require transporting in either a van or a trailer unlike the cultivator which could be carried in the rear of a car.

Any tenant using a rotovator would require training on how to use the machine correctly as they are very heavy, and they also have forward and

reverse gears and if misused it could lead to them sustaining a serious injury hence the Health and Safety issues.

In the years that BTC have had the cultivator there have been no accidents it must be said.

A cultivator will work ground that has already been turned over and prepare a seed bed as opposed to a rotovator which will turn ground over that has not been pre worked.

The cultivator was used by a great many of the tenants on the Bolam site and other sites around Blyth. However, the Association Committee have expressed they would prefer to step back from the management and letting of another machine be that a cultivator or a rotovator.

D Clough
General Services Officer

2024