

Allotments Bee Keeping Policy

Adopted Finance & General Purposes Committee 30th October 2023

Review due: October 2028

Bees can provide a tremendous benefit to allotment-holders, pollinating plants over a wide area for increased crop yields as well as providing honey for the beekeeper. Beekeeping on the allotment site is encouraged, but not all sites offer suitable locations for hives and, for everyone's safety, there are certain constraints placed on beekeepers.

1. Review of Agreement

The Council reserves the right to review this agreement as required. Before making any changes the Council will give you notice of such changes.

2. Tenancy

Any person keeping bees on allotment land must be an allotment tenant and is bound by the Allotment Tenancy Agreement in addition to this agreement.

3. The Plot

An allotment tenant must obtain permission from Haddenham Parish Council to keep bees on an allotment. The Council will consider the location of the plot in relation to neighbours, the potential for locating the hive(s) on the plot in relation to other allotment users, and the number of other beekeepers already present on the site. An allotment may not be rented for the storage of beekeeping equipment or unattended hives

Guidance: A plot of less than 5 poles or one which borders a residential property or public highway will not usually be considered suitable for beekeeping, and 10 hives per 100 poles is considered the maximum beneficial presence.

4. The Beekeeper

The beekeeper must be a member of a beekeepers' association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association (BBKA), and must be covered by suitable third-party insurance. Membership and insurance cover must be maintained whilst keeping bees on the allotment. The beekeeper must have completed the BBKA Basic Assessment and must present their certificate before receiving permission to keep bees on the allotment.

The beekeeper will ensure that a reliable daytime contact number for themselves or a person competent at dealing with bees is displayed on the plot boundary.

5. The Hives

No more than 2 hives and 1 nucleus may be located on one plot. Hives must be located towards the centre of the plot with the entrance facing away from nearby paths (and preferably facing south-east), and the entrance and sides must be suitably screened to a height of 2 metres.

Hives shall be inspected weekly from April to July by the beekeeper, in accordance with BBKA guidelines.

6. The Bees

The beekeeper must ensure that gentle strains of bees are kept, and if the bees become aggressive or exhibit excessive "following" tendency, he or she will arrange to re-queen the colony (or remove the colony until its undesirable traits have been resolved).

The beekeeper must carry out such management and manipulations of the colonies as are necessary to minimise the issue of swarms.

Management and manipulations must be timed, as far as possible, to minimise disturbance to other plot holders, and the beekeeper is encouraged to liaise with neighbouring plot holders in order to facilitate this.

Adequate water provision for the bees must be made on the plot to reduce instances of bees drinking on neighbouring plots.

Please sign and return a copy of this signed agreement to the Parish Council.

Plot number _____

Signature _____

Date _____