

POLICY: BEE-KEEPING POLICY : ALLOTMENTS

PURPOSE: Melbourn Parish Council ('the Council') provides allotments for rent to Tenants under a standard Allotment Rental Agreement (Appendix 1). This policy sets out the terms upon which Tenants may keep bees on their allotment plots.

SCOPE: Tenants are obliged to comply with the terms of this policy for the duration of their allotment rental. Failure to do so will result in permission to keep bees on their allotment plot being withdrawn and a review of their allotment rental agreement.

POLICY:

1. Bee keepers must be members of a local bee keeping association operating under the British Bee Keeping Association (BBKA) and provide proof of membership when submitting their application and annually thereafter.
2. As a minimum, bee keepers must have undertaken beginners training with a local bee keeping association and preferably have achieved the BBKA's Basic Assessment in Beekeeping.
3. The bee keeper must provide a copy of their public liability insurance annually (usually included with BBKA membership) in respect of their bee keeping activities to the Council.
4. All hives must be registered with the National Bee Unit.
5. Bee keepers must inspect the bees at least weekly during the swarming season, which can be between April and September and advise other tenants about this inspection procedure to ensure they are aware of great number of bees flying during the inspections.
6. The bee keeper must satisfy the Council that they have adequate arrangements in place to ensure that the bees are looked after in their absence and to ensure that any problems caused by their bees will be resolved.
7. A suitable sign or notice must be placed on the plot with the bee keeper's name and contact details in case of emergencies.
8. Bee keepers must be able to demonstrate that they have alternative site arrangements in place in the event that they are asked, by the Council, to remove the bee hives from their plot.
9. The Council may ask for the hives to be removed if a new Tenant requests it for

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a valid reason, such as an allergy to bee stings. In the event of an objection by another allotment holder, both parties should be encouraged to discuss any concerns in an attempt to properly understand any risks and allay such concerns.

10. If the Council asks for hives to be removed, the bee keeper must do so within 4 weeks of such request. The Council's decision on the removal of hives is final.
11. Before first introduction of bees to a site, all Tenants should be canvassed for valid objections (as noted in 9 above). Once bees have been introduced to the site, the responsibility will fall to Tenants to make the Council aware of any valid objections.
12. Hives must be positioned to avoid bees flying towards paths or roads. Screening, such as netting or fencing, must be provided around the hives to direct the bees' flight path above head height.
13. Tenants are only normally permitted to keep a maximum of two hives on their plot. However, this may be temporarily increased by adding nucs as part of swarm prevention. Note: Tenants must not exceed the limit as set out in their insurance.
14. In the event of the terms of this agreement not being complied with, the Council reserves the right to arrange for the removal of bees and bee keeping equipment from the allotment. The Council will not be liable for any loss of, or damage to, bees and bee keeping equipment and may seek reimbursement from the Tenant of any costs incurred.



Document Approval:

(Chair to Melbourn Parish Council)

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