

## **PETERFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **POLICY FOR KEEPING OF BEES ON ALLOTMENTS**

Tenants must apply in writing for permission to keep bees on their allotment garden.

The following conditions must be met:

- Those plot holders wishing to keep bees must be a member of the British Beekeepers Association.
- Erection of a (5 foot minimum) screen around the beehive to ensure that the flight path of the bees is over the heads of gardeners. Screening could be made from gauze to let light through but not bees.
- Erect a sign on the gates to the allotments and also on the plot to advise other gardeners that there are bees present. A phone number must be on the sign for contact in case of bee emergency.
- The bee keeper must indemnify the Council against any claim for liability and provide proof of this insurance. British Beekeepers Association Members are all covered.
- To strive to ensure that the bee site is not a nuisance to anyone.
- Handling bees should be done at times when the bees are very active, thus leaving fewer in the hive.
- Always ensure there is someone else on site in case of emergency when handling bees.
- Do not handle bees when other people are gardening in the immediate vicinity.
- Do not allow the strength of colonies to increase to swarming strength in an unmanaged way
- Do not place hives in positions from which flight paths impinge on other allotment users or pathways.

## **PETERSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL**

### **POLICY FOR GREENHOUSES/POLYTUNNELS/SHEDS/BONFIRES ON ALLOTMENTS**

#### **Bonfires**

No other material except Allotment Garden Rubbish can be burnt. Bonfires must be in a contained site and attended at all times whilst burning.

Bonfires may not be lit in very windy conditions.

No nuisance to be caused to neighbours by the lighting of a bonfire. Any complaints received shall be initially referred to the Councils Allotment Officer (or such other Officer as may from time to time be designated).

#### **Sheds**

Tenants must apply in writing for permission to erect a shed which will not normally exceed 8 x 6 feet in size.

The shed must be kept in good, clean and safe condition preferably with guttering and a water butt.

Upon giving up a plot the tenant may make arrangements for the shed to be taken on by the incoming tenant – if this is the case then the Allotment Officer must be advised in writing. If the shed is not required by the incoming tenant then the outgoing tenant must remove the shed. Failure to do so will result in the Town Council removing the shed and charging the cost to the outgoing tenant – see condition 2 p of your terms and conditions.

#### **Greenhouses/Polytunnels**

Tenants must apply in writing for permission to erect a greenhouse or polytunnel which will not normally exceed 8 x 6 feet in size. Plastic sheeting, plastic or toughened glass must be used to glaze the greenhouse.

Upon giving up a plot the tenant may make arrangements for the greenhouse or polytunnel to be taken on by the incoming tenant – if this is the case then the Allotment Officer must be advised in writing. If the greenhouse or polytunnel is not required by the incoming tenant then the outgoing tenant must remove the greenhouse or polytunnel. Failure to do so will result in the Town Council removing the greenhouse or polytunnel and charging the cost to the outgoing tenant – see condition 2 (p) of your terms and conditions.

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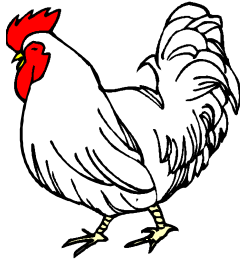
### **POLICY FOR KEEPING OF HENS ON ALLOTMENTS**

Tenants must apply in writing for permission to keep hens on their allotment garden.

Hens may be kept provided it is occupied mainly for cultivations (at least 80% of the plot). Permission will be given for the erection of a suitable structure necessary for the purpose of keeping hens but this provision does not authorise any hens to be kept in such a place or in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance, or affect the operation of any enactment. Hens must be secure within an enclosure at all times. Cockerels may not be kept

Upon giving up a plot the tenant may make arrangements for the chicken house to be taken on by the incoming tenant - if this is the case then the Allotment Officer must be advised in writing. If the chicken house is not required by the incoming tenant then the outgoing tenant must remove the chicken house. Failure to do so will result in the Town Council removing the chicken house and charging the cost to the outgoing tenant - see condition 2 (p) of your terms and conditions.

## GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING POULTRY ON YOUR ALLOTMENT



1.

### INTRODUCTION

This information has been produced to give you some important basic guidelines as to the minimum standards expected of tenants who keep poultry on Town Council allotments.

**Failure to meet the minimum standards in these guidelines may result in the termination of your tenancy.**

If you choose to keep animals on your allotment you must check on them daily, provide competent care and management and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing of your animals. In addition, you are expected to keep them under proper control to avoid disturbance to others.

Petersfield Town Council has the right to inspect livestock at anytime. If the Council has cause to investigate cases or complaints of maltreatment, costs of vets or other official inspections will be passed to the Tenant for payment.

We strongly recommend you seek further detailed guidance on keeping poultry.

### 2. FEED

Your chickens should have continuous and plentiful access to;

- Cool, Clean and fresh water
- Provision of feed of a type appropriate to the age and species of animal, fed in sufficient quantities, and sufficiently frequently, to maintain them in good health and satisfy their nutritional needs.
- Insoluble grit to aid digestion
- Foodstuffs should be stored such that it is kept clean, tidy and properly protected from rodents and other pests

### 3. HOUSING

In addition to effective containment, housing is also key in ensuring the welfare of your birds and should allow the expression of natural behaviours.

Although it is advised that you make the housing as large and comfortable as possible, as a minimum, the accommodations will be expected to compromise of:

#### A Henhouse

- Minimum size of 2 square feet (0.2m<sup>2</sup>) per chicken

#### Fully enclosed shelter that provides:

- Protection from predators
- A clean, dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (suitable choices are wood shavings or straw)
- Warmth during the colder months and shade during the summer
- Adequate ventilation but draught-free
- Perches for sleeping, approximately 3-5cms wide with rounded corners to enable them to grip
- Nest Boxes for laying eggs

#### An Outdoor Run

- Minimum size of 4 square feet (0.4m<sup>2</sup>) per chicken

- Should provide the chicken's with plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings.

Both should be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from obvious faults that may cause injury.

#### 4. HEALTH

You will be held responsible for ensuring that your livestock is free from distress, pain, injury and disease. Appropriate preventative and/or veterinary treatment should be available at all times.

##### Sanitation

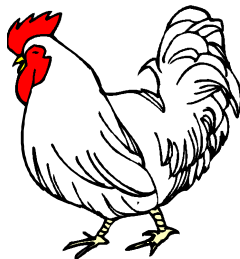
- In order to maintain healthy livestock and reduce odour problems, the run and henhouse should be cleaned a minimum of once a week or more frequently as necessary
- With respect to the above, the deep litter system is not acceptable on Petersfield Town Council allotments
- Poultry kept on the same ground for more than a month will need regular worming.

**Any health serious/longstanding or contagious problems MUST be reported to Petersfield Town Council as soon as possible, as well as detail of the treatment being received and notification when the problem has cleared.**

#### 5. FEATHERED FRIENDS

**Poultry need companionship and should be kept in groups of two or more.**

Provided your chickens are happy, healthy birds they should not become a nuisance to others. It is important however to be aware of potential problems, such as dirty sites attracting vermin and causing smells.



##### QUICK CHECKLIST

Use this quick checklist to see if your arrangements for keeping chickens on your allotment are likely to meet the requirements of Petersfield Town Council

- **Food and Water**

Your poultry should have continuous access to cool, clean water and an appropriate diet that is both plentiful and nutritional.

- **Housing**

A clean, tidy and spacious environment should be maintained which provides adequate protection from the weather and predators.

- **Health**

It is your responsibility to monitor and maintain a flock free from distress, pain injury and disease.

- **Feathered Friends**

Petersfield Town Council expect tenants to maintain high standards of welfare for their birds in clean, tidy housing. In this way everyone can enjoy the presence of poultry on your Petersfield Town Council allotments.

