

Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council

Allotment Regulations – revised August 2019

If you are interested in renting a plot on this allotment, please contact: Paul Hayward, Parish Clerk on 07711 929227 or contact Makala Tillotson c/o the details printed below.

Allotments will be allocated only to those persons on the waiting list kept by the parish clerk. Each allotment will be allocated to the first person on the waiting list and then the next person in line until such times as the allocation is accepted and formally confirmed via the Clerk. There are 105 quarter-plots on site, laid out in 4 rows; A, B, C & D, numbered 1 to 25 (rows A & B) and 1 to 28 (rows C & D). There is no plot at D5.

Daily site supervisor: Makala Tillotson (Plot reference – A/11)
(07543 632973 / 01395 567961 – Email: badgerskin@aol.com)

Grass cutting / strimming of site: Makala Tillotson (as above)

Fees:

Allotment fees are payable yearly in advance 1st April – 31st March. No refunds of plot fees will be made once paid.

£6.00 per annum per quarter plot plus,

£3.00 per annum per quarter plot for water (charges may fluctuate according to site usage and are shown separately on bill and the Parish Council reserves the right to regulate the water supply in drought conditions).

All fees must be paid in advance, preferably via Cheque or BACS but cash payments are acceptable. Receipts will be provided for cash received.

Non-payment will result in forfeiting of the plot(s).

Tenants notice period to break tenancy: 1 month

Plot regulations:

All allotment plot numbers must be clearly displayed with signage provided, and maintained, by the Parish Council. All allotment boundaries must be retained and kept clear.

The tenant shall not assign the tenancy nor sub-let or part with the possession of any part of the Allotment Plot without prior written consent of the Parish Council.

Barbed wire may not be used on site.

Trading or business (for example, selling produce) on or from allotment site is prohibited.

Dogs on site to be under the owners control at all times. Dog waste to be removed.

Certain animals may be kept on the allotment plots (as per Section 12 of the Allotment Act1950). However, the approval for such animals is subject to stringent animal welfare requirements in terms of accommodation and access to food and water. Please contact the Clerk for more details (or refer to National Allotment Society – www.nsalg.org.uk)

Bonfires:

Bonfires are permitted (in appropriate containers where possible). We ask that you are mindful of smoke nuisance from burning green materials and of the impact of smoke on other users. Only “organic” materials are to be burnt (which excludes the burning of painted, treated or man-made timber). The use of flammable liquids to initiate or accelerate ignition is strictly prohibited. Where possible, we encourage use of composters as an alternative to burning.

Bonfires must never be left unattended and must be fully extinguished before the tenant leaves the site. Copies of the East Devon District Council guidance notes for bonfires are available upon request.

Sheds/green houses on site:

- The footprint of any new structure, colour, size, materials etc should be approved in advance (contact Makala Tillotson who will forward the information to the Parish Council for their prior approval)
- The shed or green house shall be kept in good repair with the roof firmly secured. Any breakage to glass will be repaired immediately and broken glass removed from site.
- The structure shall not be occupied between 10.00 pm and 6.00 am and shall, under no circumstances, be used as accommodation, either temporary or permanent.

Chemicals:

Chemicals **MUST** be stored, used and disposed of responsibly and with respect for other users who may wish to grow organic produce. Although not prohibited, the use of chemicals containing glyphosates and neonicotinoids is actively discouraged. The Garden Organic Association provides helpful information regarding organic alternatives to these products.

Tenancy Matters:

Each tenant is responsible for managing their own plot and will be respectful of other tenants and users. Any site not properly maintained may result in forfeit of the plot. When vacating a plot, it should be left in a suitable state for the next tenant. Parish Council reserves the right to levy a charge upon the outgoing tenant to reimburse the Parish Council for costs relating to unreasonable clearance expenditures.

Non-compostable rubbish must be removed from site.

Vacant plots should be kept covered where possible to prevent seeding.

Tenants are reminded that they are responsible for any liability insurance cover for their respective plots and that the Council's liability only extends to common areas of the allotment site.

The allocation and rental of allotment plots is solely at the discretion of the Parish Council and the Parish Council reserves the right to withdraw permission to rent a plot for misuse, non-payment of fees, or disregarding any of the regulations contained herein, including where a tenant's behaviour is deemed by the Parish Council to be unreasonable, unacceptable or abusive (this also includes the persistent use of language that others find offensive, obscene or upsetting). The consumption of alcohol or recreational drugs on site is strictly prohibited.

In the event that the Parish Council determines that a plot shall be withdrawn or a tenancy agreement rescinded due to a breach of the allotment regulations which the Council considers to be of such magnitude that the circumstances warrant an immediate suspension, it will communicate this decision to the tenant in writing at the last known address held on Council's files and will then;

- Suspend the tenants agreement and withdraw their right to access the site,
- Consider the suspension decision at the next FULL Council meeting.

The Clerk to the Parish Council, in consultation with either the Chair of the Parish Council, or the Chair of the Policy and Personnel Committee, has the Council's delegated authority to initiate such a suspension with immediate effect if circumstances dictate such action. Any such decision would be conveyed to all members of Council as soon as possible after the suspension notice is issued and the matter would be discussed at the earliest Council meeting convened thereafter. The tenant in question has the Right of Appeal against this decision.

The Parish Council authorised the installation of an Eco-Toilet onsite for the use of allotment plottolders and their guests. The provision of this amenity was subject to stringent rules and regulations regarding its use and the treatment of the human waste created. All waste materials MUST be composted according to the principles of Eco-Composting and plottolders are asked to forward all concerns or reports of damage or disrepair or pollution to the Parish Clerk to deal with. Please note that human waste, until made inert by composting, is a bio-hazard as per the statutory regulations of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and there are severe financial and legal consequences for non-compliance with this law.

To prevent contamination of the compostable material, it is essential that persons undergoing any form of radiation treatment / testing refrain from using these facilities. The waste containers are to be emptied by authorised personnel only.

The positions of Allotment Site Supervisor and Site Maintenance Operative are appointed by the Parish Council and any comments or complaints should be directed to the Parish Clerk in the first instance for consideration by the Parish Council.

The Parish Council reserves the right to amend the wording of this policy from time to time and the policy is subject to annual review by the Policy and Personnel Committee.

If you have any concerns about activities or management of this allotment site, please contact the Clerk to the Parish Council:

Paul Hayward - Tel: 07711 929227

parishclerk@newtonpopplefordpc.co.uk