

Rooksdown Parish Council

Rules for Beekeeping on Council Allotments

V1 5/10/20

(derived from BDBC rules dated June 2016)

Note: These rules may be amended by Rooksdown Parish Council (RPC) at any time upon one month's written notice.

1 Definitions

- Allotment Apiary – Area containing a number of Hives & Nucs on an Allotment Plot
- APHA - Animal and Plant Health Agency (part of National Bee Unit at DEFRA)
- Basingstoke Bee Keepers – See BDBKA
- BBKA – The British Bee Keepers Association
- Basic Assessment Certificate – after a year (12 months) of beekeeping a Beekeeper will be encouraged to take the Basic Assessment course managed by the BBKA. This course is held twice a year with the BDBKA holding periodic coaching sessions
- BDBKA - Basingstoke and District Beekeepers Association
- Bee Health Advisor – APHA-assessed advisor, whose assistance may be sought by a beekeeper concerned about any apiary or bee health issues
- Beekeeper – Tenant who has either gained the Basic Assessment Certificate and/or has more than 3 years' experience
- Bee Hive – Combination of boxes (known as Brood, Super etc.) that houses a colony of honeybees and allow for the harvesting of honey and wax
- DEFRA - Department for Environment & Rural Affairs
- Local Bee Association - Any association affiliated to the BBKA
- National Bee Unit (NBU) – Part of DEFRA responsible for bee health
- National Bee Unit's Beebase Database – Details of all members of BDBKA are sent to the NBU and it is a condition of membership that BDBKA members register their details along with the location of their apiary or apiaries
- New Beekeeper – has either less than 3 years beekeeping experience or has not undertaken the Basic Assessment Certificate
- Nucleus Colony (Nuc) – A small “starter” colony of bees, with no honey harvest capacity and up to 6 frames
- Open Space Apiary – A collection of hives and Nucs within an enclosure constructed on open space on an allotment site as agreed with RPC
- Regional Bee Inspector (RBI) – An employee of APHA, responsible for monitoring the health of honeybee colonies in England, who is working to prevent the spread of notifiable pests and diseases; the RBI has the legal authority to require a beekeeper to comply with any restriction orders etc.

2 Evidence required from the Beekeeper

Prior to approval by RPC, a request for bees to be kept on an Allotment Plot must be put in writing to RPC and must include the following:

2.1 Evidence of competence

Evidence of being a current, paid up member of a local British Beekeeping Association, fully affiliated to the BBKA together with evidence of public liability insurance (£10m of third-party cover) must be evidenced on an annual basis to RPC by the production of a current BDI Scheme A Certificate of Insurance, along with details of any changes to the Beekeeper's membership.

2.2 Contact details

For a new Beekeeper, contact details of who their mentor will be and inform RPC of any changes.

2.3 Evidence of training

Confirmation that a new Beekeeper has attended a basic course in the management of bees will be required from a local beekeeping association (affiliated to the BBKA). Unless the Beekeeper has already gained the BBKA Basic Assessment Certificate or has already kept bees for a minimum of 3 years as evidenced by a letter of competence from his/her local association secretary and that they are satisfied that the Beekeeper's skills exceed Basic Assessment level.

2.4 Planned location

A plan showing the proposed location of the Allotment Apiary must be provided.

Note: The Allotment Apiary must be sited in accordance with the BBKA guidelines. Location and number of apiaries must be approved by RPC prior to installation. Once approval has been granted, the Beekeeper will advise RPC of the timing of the installation.

3 RPC Responsibilities

Upon receiving the above information from a Beekeeper wishing to keep bees on the Allotment Plot RPC will:

3.1 Consultation

- Consult with all Allotment Plot holders/Site Representative and residents adjacent to the apiary site to establish whether there are any issues with the intended bee keeping, for example extreme allergic reaction to bee stings.
 - If any objections are received from any of the above in regard to the proposed apiary, discussions will be held between RPC, the Beekeeper, local bee association and the objector to establish the nature of the objection and reasonable efforts will be made to find a compromise.
 - RPC shall be the sole arbiter of the validity of any objection and whether permission shall be given to keep bees on the Allotment Plot.
 - A new Tenant of an Allotment Site will be told prior to accepting the Tenancy Agreement that there is a current Allotment Apiary, therefore any objection or request by a new Tenant to remove the Allotment Apiary will not be taken as a valid objection.

3.2 Decision

- Advise the prospective Beekeeper on their decision. Should approval be given for the keeping of bees RPC will inform any allotment association, Tenants on the allotment site, and BDBKA of the approval for an apiary.

4 Notice

On receipt of a valid objection, RPC reserves the right to demand the removal of the bees at any time in the future, giving 28 days' notice to the Beekeeper to relocate the Allotment Apiary to a location acceptable to RPC.

5 Succession

Should a Beekeeper decide to withdraw from an Open Space Apiary, the Beekeeper may pass the Apiary to another Beekeeper. If the replacement Beekeeper is not a current Tenant for that Allotment Site, they will have to sign an appropriate Tenancy Agreement.

6 Beekeepers Responsibilities

If approval for the keeping of bees is granted by RPC, the Beekeeper must follow the Rules below:

6.1 Tenancy

- Any person keeping bees on an Allotment Plot must be a Tenant and is bound by the current version of the RPC Rules for Allotment Plot Tenants in addition to this agreement.

6.2 Management procedures

- The Beekeeper undertakes to follow all regulations, guidelines and best practice notices as issued (and updated from time to time) by BBKA, DEFRA and other agencies in relation to the keeping and management of bees. This includes (but not limited to) disease notification, inspection visits, Beebase registration and other matters.

6.3 Emergency

- In the case of an emergency if RPC is unable to contact the Beekeeper or their emergency contacts, the local bee association will be contacted to help deal with the incident and may take whatever actions are deemed necessary by the association in consultation with RPC.

6.4 Maintenance of apiary

- An apiary must be maintained and kept in a good condition.
- Beekeepers must keep the grass/vegetation/weeds bordering their apiary cut to a reasonable length to allow free passage by other allotment holders on the site.
- Management and manipulations of the hives within the apiary must be at reasonable times where possible, to minimise disturbance to other allotment plots. The Beekeeper is encouraged to liaise with adjacent Allotment Plot holders in order to facilitate this.

6.5 Mesh barrier

- The Beekeeper will erect a two-metre-high small mesh netting barrier around the immediate area surrounding the apiary to force the bees to fly above head height when they leave/return to the hive(s). This mesh netting must be kept in good working condition. Advice and guidance on this aspect can be obtained from BDBKA.

6.6 New apiaries

- The number of hives per apiary shall be

- Allotment Apiary:
 - Full plot; Up to 5 hives and 3 Nucs per apiary
 - Half plot; Up to 3 hives and 2 Nucs per apiary
- Open Space Apiary: By agreement with RPC, but probably in the order of 1 hive per 10 Sq. metres of internal enclosed apiary area, with an allowance of up to 70% of Nucs to hives.
- The above figures may be varied depending on forage levels available. It is the Beekeepers responsibility to ensure that the number of colonies in the Allotment or Open Space Apiary can be supported by the surrounding forage
- No additional beekeeping equipment to that originally agreed may be installed without RPC's prior written permission.

6.7 New beekeepers

- New beekeepers must demonstrate that they have attended a basic introductory course in the management of bees before they will be permitted an Allotment Apiary.
- BDBKA will normally provide mentor support for up to 2 years to the New Beekeeper.
- New Beekeepers are encouraged to take the BBKA Basic Beekeeping Assessment once they have gained sufficient experience and confidence in the handling of honey bees. When completed, a copy of the Assessment Certificate must be provided to RPC.

6.8 Protective clothing

- The Beekeeper should not enter the apiary without appropriate protective clothing and in so far as practical must not permit other visitors to enter the apiary without appropriate protective clothing.
- Any persons who do not wear appropriate protective clothing when entering the Allotment Apiary do so at their own risk.

6.9 Site notices

- The Beekeeper shall put up notices at the Allotment Apiary to advise other allotment holders that beekeeping is taking place with a contact name and number in case of any emergencies.

6.10 Strains of Bees

- Only 'gentle' strains of bees will be kept, and if the bees become aggressive or exhibit excessive 'following' tendency, the Beekeeper will follow BBKA guidance to eliminate or reduce the problem.
- If it is felt that any colony within the apiary has become overly defensive or otherwise unmanageable then the Beekeeper must contact their Local Bee Association and/or their Bee Health Advisors to establish a suitable course of action.

6.11 Waste products

- Any beekeeping waste materials must be removed from the site and disposed of hygienically.

6.12 Water provisions

- Adequate water provision for the bees must be made within the Allotment Apiary to reduce instances of bees drinking from water supplies of neighbouring plots.



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V1 October 2020

I have read the above Rules and agree to adhere to them at all times. I understand that failure to do so may result in the termination of my Tenancy Agreement.

I consent to my personal details (name, address, phone number, email address) being used by Rooksdown Parish Council for the purposes of managing my tenancy and communication items of relevance concerning the allotments, and will inform the Council immediately of any changes to these details.

SIGNED by the said Tenant

Print Name

Date

Plot Number

Your contact details:

Mobile contact number

Work contact number

Additional contact name details of someone competent at dealing with bees:

Additional Contact Name

Additional Contact Number

Contact details of Beekeepers local bee association:

Association Name

Association Contact Number