

Whitfield Lane South Petherton Allotments Society Rules

Updated: November 2023

Next Review: November 2024

The rules for the plot holders are in place to ensure the continued enjoyment and minimum inconvenience to all plot holders of the allotments and local residents. Each plot holder will be required to sign the Tenancy Agreement agreeing to abide by the Society Rules as laid out by South Petherton Parish Council (SPPC) and the Allotment Management Committee (AMC).

1. General conditions:

- a. New plot holders will be given a probationary period of two months. Failure to make progress during this time in developing the plot in accordance with the rules in section two, as deemed by the AMC, shall result in a written warning.
- b. Children are allowed and encouraged to come on site under the supervision of a plot holder. Plot holders are responsible for all children in their charge whilst on site and are to ensure that they do not interfere or disrupt any other plot holders plot or belongings or operate any powered machinery or cutting hand tools.
- c. Plot holders must consider the safety and rights of other plot holders and take all steps reasonably practical not to cause nuisance or danger to others.
- d. Abusive and threatening behaviour will not be tolerated.
- e. The entrance gates must always be kept closed after entering or leaving the site.
- f. Plot holders shall not deposit any rubbish or building materials on their plot or the site.
- g. Members must not remove, add, or change any official item on the notice board. Other items posted must be relevant to allotment gardening.
- h. Petrol, oil, lubricants and any other inflammable liquid, chemicals and equipment must be stored safely at the plot holders' risk and must not be allowed to contaminate theirs or other plots.
- i. Cars may only be parked while the plot holder is on the site.
- j. Plot holders shall drive slowly on the site.
- k. Cars / trailers must not be tested or repaired in the car park.
- l. Plot holders shall not obstruct any path or access.
- m. Plot holders must clearly number their plot.
- n. Change of address and contact details must be advised to the Secretary as soon as is possible. In addition, if a member moves out of the parish, they must advise the Secretary. The plot holder may have to relinquish their plot as per the Tenancy agreement.

2. Maintenance of the Allotment

- a. The plot shall be used for growing vegetables, fruit, and/or flowers, and over 75% of the plot shall be cultivated in this way (subject to seasonal variation).
- b. The plot shall be cultivated by the end of May.
- c. The plot shall not be used for any other purpose, trade, or business.

- d. Plot holders shall keep their plot free from seeding weeds and grasses.
- e. The spraying of weed killers, pesticides, insecticides, and other chemicals (if necessary) shall be carried out in calm weather conditions and with due consideration to neighbouring plot holders.
- f. Only chemicals approved for domestic use shall be used.
- g. The plot holder shall keep the plot tidy and free from any rubbish (items that are not usable on the plot, broken or are decaying must be removed).
- h. Carpet shall not be used to suppress the growth of weeds.
- i. Tyres shall not be used on the plots.
- j. If it becomes necessary for the AMC to clear a plot of rubbish, carpet, tyres etc then the plot holder shall be invoiced by the SPPC clerk to recover the cost.
- k. The plot holder must make every effort to control the numbers of rats and mice.
- l. Plot holders are asked to keep adjoining internal pathways by their plots clear of weeds.
- m. The boundary rabbit proof fence is the responsibility of SPPC and shall not be altered without permission of SPPC.
- n. Internally, plot boundary fences are the responsibility of the plot holders. The type or style of fence shall be agreed with the neighbouring plot holders. Barbwire shall not be used on internal fences.
- o. Only dwarf fruit trees may be planted and must fall within the plot boundary. The height of fruit trees must not exceed 3m.
- p. Trees and shrubs shall not obstruct the internal footpaths.
- q. Small fires are allowed but must not be left unattended.
- r. Due care must be taken to ensure that smoke from fires do not annoy the adjacent plot holders and the local offsite neighbours.
- s. Fires shall be extinguished before the plot holder leaves their plot.

3. Sheds and other Structures

- a. Any structure shall be temporary and shall be maintained in a safe and usable condition, fit for its intended purpose.
- b. Sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels, rainwater catchers or other structures should be no greater than 10 square meters (120 square feet). Typically, 1.8m long x 1.2m wide and height no more than 3m.
- c. Any structure should be positioned on the plot giving due consideration to the neighbouring plot holder and be located at least 500mm (18 inches) from the boundary.
- d. Greenhouses, and cold frames, should ideally be glazed with either polycarbonate or Perspex and not glass for safety reasons.

4. Pets, Livestock and Bees

- a. No livestock shall be kept on the plot.
- b. Dogs are allowed on site; they shall be under control at all times and shall not be allowed to roam the communal footpaths un-attended.
- c. Written permission from SPPC is required to keep bees on the plots and a strict set of criteria as laid down by the National Society of Allotments will need to be met before permission is given.

5. Inspection of Allotments

- a. The AMC shall periodically inspect all plots on the allotment site.
- b. Inspection of plots will be to ensure plot holder compliance with the rules.
- c. The AMC will keep on record the results of the inspection and keep the SPPC Clerk advised of any issues identified.
- d. The AMC shall adopt the following procedure when plots are found not to be compliant with the rules:
 - I. The AMC will try and speak with the plot holder face to face where possible and within five days of the inspection an initial letter will be sent to the plot holder identifying issues and offering help and advice.
 - II. A second letter will be sent by the AMC if the identified issues have not been resolved within two weeks of the initial letter being sent.
 - III. If after a further two weeks the issues identified have not been resolved a third and final letter will be sent by SPPC clerk terminating the tenancy.
- e. Any plot holder experiencing difficulties in maintaining a plot should contact the AMC to see if assistance can be provided.

6. Water management and Composting

- a. Plot holders are to preserve water and collect rainwater for use on the plot as far as reasonably practical.
- b. The troughs should remain covered when not in use (currently not in use).
- c. To keep the water and troughs clean no tools or vegetables shall be cleaned in the troughs and water should be collected in clean vessels (currently not in use).
- d. All leaks from water sources are to be reported to the AMC as soon as possible so that corrective action can be taken (currently not in use).
- e. Members should take non-compostable items to the local recycling centre or to their homes for disposal in the waste collection.

7. Complaints and Disputes

- a. Refer to the constitution section regarding “Complaints and Disputes”.

Related Documents

Whitfield Lane South Petherton Allotments Society Tenancy Agreement

Whitfield Lane South Petherton Allotment Society Constitution

Whitfield Lane South Petherton Allotment Society Rules

Appendix I – Map of Whitfield Lane Allotments – Nov 2023

Appendix II – Map of Grass cutting requirements – Nov 2023