

Bee hives on the allotments

Hamble Lane allotments are an asset provided by Hamble Parish Council to the whole community. It provides 38 allotment plots to Hamble and the surrounding peninsular.

Hamble Parish Council fully appreciate and support the beneficial impact bees have to the environment and actively encourage biodiversity within the allotment site and beyond.

- Bees are essential for pollinating plants and crops which in turn provides us with food.
- The number of honeybees is on the decline, so keeping bees is crucial to help increase the bee population.
- Bees help increase biodiversity, secure food sources, and improve the overall health of ecosystems.
- Beekeeping can be a rewarding hobby that provides honey, beeswax, and other benefits.

The tenant shall not, without the written consent of the Council, keep bees on the allotment gardens.

12.1 The tenant must not keep any animals or livestock of any kind except bees.

Tenants wishing to keep bees on their plot must first apply in writing to Hamble Parish Council and may do so only when written permission has been given by Hamble Parish Council. There are no exceptions to this rule. The placement of bees on site without a bee agreement will be subject to immediate removal at cost to the tenant and a bee agreement will not be agreed retrospectively.

12.2 Bees are to be kept strictly in accordance with Hamble Parish Council guidelines. In the case of bees, the tenant must be a registered Beekeeper and follow the process guidelines to be considered for approved bee keeping on the Allotment plot.

12.3 If plots are used for keeping bees, no more than 25% of the plot may be used and cultivation rates apply to the remaining space.

12.4 Tenants must ensure the bees are checked at least daily, provide competent care and management, and have the knowledge and skills to ensure the wellbeing of the bees.

12.5 The tenant shall ensure that a suitably alternative and knowledgeable person is available to look after the bees to the same standards set out in these Rules if the tenant is for any reason unable to inspect the bees themselves.

12.6 Hamble Parish Council is within their rights to invite Officers from the Council – including Environmental Health – and RSPCA, or equivalent, to inspect bees kept on site on a regular basis. Inspection by these parties can take place with or without permission of the tenant should concern arise. Any decision made by the Council or RSPCA, or equivalent, on matters associated with keeping bees, will be final.

12.7 The placing of beehives on an allotment is subject to acceptance by the tenant of direct responsibility for insurance and development of a bee agreement. Best practice guidance for bee keeping can be found on the Beekeeping Association website.

12.8 Keepers of bees must ensure they are kept under control, effectively contained, and provided with shelter suitable to their welfare needs and natural behaviours.

12.9 Tenants will be held responsible for the health of their bees and must ensure it is free from distress, pain, injury and disease – providing any preventative treatment as and when necessary, at their own expense.

12.10 Bees must not be traded or kept as part of a business.