



ANDOVER TOWN COUNCIL

Rules for Allotment Tenants

I. INTERPRETATION

I.1. In these Rules and Conditions:

- I.1.1. “agreement” means the tenancy agreement of an allotment signed by you and which is legally binding
- I.1.2. “Allotment” means an allotment garden as defined in the Allotments Act 1922 that is owned by the Council,
- I.1.3. “town” means the parish area covered by Andover Town Council “the Council” means Andover Town Council,
- I.1.4. “you” or “your” means you the person or persons signing the tenancy agreement of an allotment.
- I.1.5. Where anything in these Rules and Conditions is stated to be “by law” it means that the law requires it under an Act of Parliament which both you and the Council must comply with.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1.** These rules are made pursuant to The Small Holdings and Allotments Act 1908 and the Allotment Acts of 1922 to 1950 and apply to all rented allotment gardens owned and managed by Andover Town Council.
- 2.2.** These rules and regulations replace any existing rules and regulations and the Council reserve the right from time to time to revise or update these rules and conditions and to send to you a copy of the revised or updated rules which will then replace these rules and conditions.
- 2.3.** You shall observe and comply with all statutory provisions relating to allotments and also the rules, regulations and policies, published from time to time by the Council. These may be displayed on notice boards, gates and / or sent with rent invoices / new tenancy agreements / newsletters.

3. Definitions:

- 3.1.** Uncultivated – either fully or partially overgrown or unused, weed or grass is prevalent, insufficient or no planting is present and no effort has been made to keep the plot clear and tidy.
- 3.2.** Cultivated – the plot is planted with crops, seeded or fully prepared for planting or for seeds to be sown.
- 3.3.** Association Representative – volunteers who form an allotment association. They act in the interests of and on behalf of all tenants for all matters relating to a particular allotment site and its upkeep and development.
- 3.4.** Warden – volunteers who represent tenants on a specific allotment site.
- 3.5.** Buildings – any walk-in structures such as sheds, greenhouses and polytunnels which are an appropriate size for the intended task.

4. New Tenants

- 4.1.** A new tenant will cultivate the allotment to an agreed acceptable standard within the first three months (or length of time agreed between the Council and the tenant) of tenancy and thereafter will comply with the rules of the site.

5. General Conditions for the Cultivation of Allotment:

By signing the agreement, the tenant of an allotment agrees to observe ALL the rules and conditions below.

Management of the Allotments

The Council reserves the right to transfer to Allotment Association or other bodies the responsibility for the management of each allotment site(s).

5.1. Rent

- ♣ To pay the rent for an allotment in full to the Council in accordance with the agreement
- ♣ Refunds of rent will not be offered under any circumstances
- ♣ The Council reserves the right to amend the amount of rent payable. If they do so then the Council will give you 28 written days notice of the amount of the increased rent.
- ♣ Existing Tenants over the age of 60 may be eligible for a discount to the annual rent charge (not including services). This will be a 50% discount upon production of approved identification (driving license or birth certificate) at the time of application.
- ♣ All new Tenants from 1st April 2011 will pay the full rent.
- ♣ If for any reason you do not receive the notice advising you of the amount of the increased rent then this will not invalidate the increase and you shall pay the difference as soon as you become aware that the rent has been increased.
- ♣ If you do not pay the rent on time then the Council will end the tenancy in accordance with paragraph 27.3,

5.2. Security

- ♣ Only the tenant, or a person authorised or accompanied by the tenant is allowed on site.
- ♣ You shall keep the entrance gate to the allotment site locked immediately after entering and/or leaving so as to prevent access by unauthorised persons or animals.
- ♣ You shall not give copies of any key or combination lock code issued by the Council to anyone else.

5.3. Use of Land

- ♣ To use the land as an allotment and for no other purpose
- ♣ The tenant must use the allotment for his or her own personal use and not carry out any trade or business or sell produce from the allotment
- ♣ You are responsible for the health and safety of all persons either within the allotment site or outside it insofar as any harm is caused to such persons as a result of your keeping of animals, birds or fish on the allotment and in this respect you are advised to provide secure fencing round any pond and to have birds and animals regularly inspected by a veterinary surgeon
- ♣ Tenants must comply with all reasonable or legitimate directions given by an Officer of the Council, or representative, in relation to an allotment or site.
- ♣ No overnight stays or use of any buildings for residential accommodation is permitted
- ♣ Not to bring on to the site or store items other than for horticultural use.
- ♣ Construction materials, paving and timber for infrastructure work brought onto the allotment for use upon the allotment must be used within 6 months.
- ♣ Quantities of construction materials, paving and timber in excess of an amount that is reasonably required will be regarded as unacceptable and the tenant will be requested to remove them. Failure to do so may result in the materials being removed by the Council and the tenant being charged with the cost and notice of termination given.
- ♣ You shall not use the allotment for any illegal, immoral or anti social activity.

5.4. Cultivation

- ♣ To keep the allotment clean, cultivated and fertile, maintaining it in a good tidy condition
- ♣ If a plot appears to be uncultivated, the Council reserves the right to cut down all weed growth and charge the tenant
- ♣ Not to obstruct or reduce any path set out by the Council for the use of the occupiers of the allotment
- ♣ If the allotment is persistently uncultivated, following 2 reminder letters (1st letter with 4 weeks to respond, 2nd letter with 2 weeks to respond) from the Council, the Council has the right to evict the tenant following an eviction notice in writing

5.5. Trees

- ♣ Not to cut, lop or interfere with any trees on the allotment without the prior consent of the Council
- ♣ Not to plant trees or bushes other than fruit trees or bushes. These must be planted away from paths to ensure they do not shade or allow roots to grow under neighbouring plots
- ♣ Fruit trees are the only permitted tree to be planted on an allotment. Grown height should not ultimately exceed 2m.
- ♣ You shall not allow self seeded trees to grow on the allotment (especially any growing through a perimeter fence).

5.6. Vehicles

- ♣ All vehicles must be driven carefully and parked sensibly, cause no obstruction or inconvenience to tenants or neighbouring properties. Vehicles are not allowed on allotment plots at any time.

5.7. Plot Marker

- ♣ Each allotment holder is responsible for providing a plot marker (showing the number of the plot) keeping it clean, readable and displayed in a prominent position

5.8. Nuisance

- ♣ Not to cause any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment, adjoining landowners or the occupiers of nearby houses
- ♣ Not to enter, take or remove any plants or crops from other allotments without that tenant's permission
- ♣ Not to obstruct or reduce with width of any path between the allotments, or block or obstruct the main track on the site
- ♣ Abusive, aggressive or threatening behaviour towards the Council's representatives or any adjoining owners or occupiers of the allotments or any neighbouring land or property will not be tolerated

5.9 Chemicals

- ♣ You shall not take onto the allotment or the allotment site any illegal chemicals, for example creosote, or any poisons or chemicals that may be a danger to animals or birds or which may contaminate underground water or streams or rivers in the vicinity.
- ♣ You shall where possible avoid the use of chemicals for the control of weeds, insects and slugs. If you do use them you shall use them strictly in accordance with the manufactures instructions.
- ♣ Any chemical used on the allotment must be stored in a secure locked environment.

5.10 Bonfires

- ♣ The Council discourages the lighting of any bonfire on allotments and you should either compost all plant waste or remove it from the allotment site.
- ♣ In exceptional circumstances you may light a bonfire if it is absolutely necessary for the burning of dry diseased plant material generated on site. Bonfires must not be left unattended.
- ♣ You shall not bring onto the allotment site any materials for the purpose of burning.
- ♣ You shall not burn manufactured materials such as plastics and rubber as they can give off toxic fumes.
- ♣ You shall take into consideration local householders and whether they have left windows open, etc. Smoke from a bonfire may be a nuisance to neighbours by interfering with the use and enjoyment of their garden or property, or could affect the comfort or quality of life of the public, could result in action under the Environment Protection Act 1990. Tenants who light a fire within 50ft (15.24m) of the centre of a highway maybe guilty of an offence under the Highways Act 1980.
- ♣ You are strictly liable for the payment of all costs, expenses and compensation either for damage or nuisance caused as a result of a bonfire on the allotment.
- ♣ The Council reserves the right to prohibit bonfires absolutely or upon specific allotments and your attention is drawn to the on site notices in this respect.

5.11 Waste

- ♣ No non-compostable material is to be kept on the allotment or on the site
- ♣ No garden waste, or any other material or other waste is to be placed against any fence, hedge or gate
- ♣ Only green vegetable waste may be composted on individual plots. As there is no facility to dump other waste on any part of the site for composting, each tenant must ensure it is removed to an appropriate facility
- ♣ Composting is only allowed on the allotment and must be properly maintained to the satisfaction of the Council
- ♣ All other waste material must be removed from the site and disposed of in an appropriate manner
- ♣ You shall not bring onto the allotment or the allotment site any rubbish from external sources and you may be prosecuted for fly tipping if you do so.
- ♣ Any tenant who fails to comply with this rule will forfeit the right to continue gardening the plot

5.12 Hedges, fences, paths and gates

- ♣ Not to put up any fence, gate or hedge within the site unless authorised by the Council
- ♣ Not to cut or prune any trees or bushes around the outside of the boundary fence to the site without the prior written consent of the Council
- ♣ To ensure that paths are kept clean around their own plots by cutting grass between the plots and keeping them free from weed and the accumulation of waste
- ♣ You shall at all times keep shared paths clear of obstructions, and particularly tripping obstructions.
- ♣ You shall not extend the allotment into any shared path which shall be kept wide enough for easy pedestrian and wheel barrow access to neighbouring allotments.
- ♣ If the allotment extends into an area that but for the extension would have been a shared path then you shall re-create the path if required by the Council.
- ♣ Ensure each hedge that forms part of the allotment plot is properly cut and trimmed and keep all ditches clear

5.13 Buildings

- ♣ Not to put up any buildings within the allotment except for composting, keeping of poultry or rabbits or for a purpose relevant to allotment activities without prior written consent of the Council
- ♣ Any buildings which have been authorised by the Council, following consent, must be well constructed and maintained
- ♣ Any sheds which have been authorised by the council, must be coated with an approved wood preserver and must not inconvenience other allotment users, adjoining landowners or the occupiers of nearby houses
- ♣ Any structure on the allotment must be temporary and maintained in safe order with a neat external appearance and condition. No hazardous material (e.g. asbestos) may be used for the structure. If the Council is not satisfied with the condition of the structure, you shall either alter or repair it to the satisfaction of the Council or remove it within 1 month of instruction by the Council to do so. If the structure is not removed, the Council may remove it and charge you the full cost of removal and disposal.
- ♣ Any buildings put up on the allotment must be removed by the tenancy termination date

- ♣ The building or shed shall be more than two feet from any fence, path or track

5.14 Barbed wire

- ♣ Barbed wire or similar must not be brought on to the allotment site

5.15 Dogs

- ♣ Dogs are not permitted on the allotment sites (except assistance dogs).

5.16 Animals

- ♣ You must not keep any animals or birds on the allotment other than hens or rabbits and for the avoidance of doubt a hen is a female chicken. Permission must be received from the Council in writing prior to animals being kept on an allotment.
- ♣ You are responsible for the health and welfare of all animals kept by you on the allotment and for keeping them well fed and cared for and in acceptable and humane conditions.

5.17 Children

- ♣ Not to allow children accompanying the tenant or a member of the tenant's family to cause a nuisance or annoyance to other tenants or occupiers of nearby houses
- ♣ To ensure children are supervised at all times, ball games are not allowed at any time

5.18 Water

- ♣ Use of sprinklers is permitted provided that the tenant is present on the allotment and that other tenants access to the water supply is not unduly restricted. Any allotment tenant, who observes an active sprinkler, where there is no visible evidence of the tenant of that plot being present, should turn the water off at the relevant tap.
- ♣ Subject to any government restrictions in the event of drought or other emergency, you may use a hand held hose pipe either to water plants or to fill water butts, provided that this does not affect other tenants having access to the water supply.
- ♣ You shall ensure that the water tap is turned off immediately after use.
- ♣ You shall not use the water supply for any purpose other than for watering plants on the allotment.
- ♣ You will report a damaged or leaking tap to the Council or site warden as soon as reasonably possible.
- ♣ You are encouraged to collect rain water in a water butt on the allotment.
- ♣ The Council turns off the water supply to the allotment site during the months November to March inclusive. If severe frost is forecast whilst the water supply is on, the Council reserves the right to turn off the water supply

5.19 Toilets

- ♣ Leave the toilet in a condition that is fit for use by other tenants
- ♣ Report any faults to Council

5.20 Restriction on admittance to allotment

- ♣ The Council has the right to refuse admittance to any person other than the tenant to the allotment site

5.21 Change of address or other details

- ♣ The tenant must inform the Council within 10 working days of any change of address or other details

5.22 Dispute between tenants, adjoining landowners or with the occupiers of nearby houses

- ♣ In case of a dispute between tenant of any allotment on the site, adjoining landowners or the occupant/s of any nearby houses the matter will be referred to the Council, whose decision shall be final

5.23 Power to inspect

- ♣ The Council or its appointed officer and any allotment association representative or site representative is entitled to inspect any allotment garden

5.24 Special conditions

- ♣ Not to take or remove or sell any mineral, gravel, clay, sand or top soil from the site
- ♣ Observe and undertake any other special condition/s which the Council considers necessary to preserve the allotment or the site from deterioration
- ♣ To advise the Council of any damage to fences, water equipment, such as troughs or pipes or toilets as soon as possible

5.25 Alienation

- ♣ Not to underlet, assign or part with the possession of the allotment or any part of it without the prior written consent of the Council. For the purposes of clarification, a transfer of the tenancy falls within this paragraph and is prohibited.
- ♣ If you ignore this ban on assignment and attempt to assign the tenancy to someone else or permit someone else to use the allotment for their own use then the tenancy shall terminate immediately.
- ♣ Permission will not be given to any tenant wishing to transfer the agreement under any circumstance.

5.26 Food Cages

- ♣ Food cages that are located on the allotment must not exceed 7'6" (2.3m) in height and shall be proportionate, well constructed and maintained and shall not cast shade on adjoining allotment plots. No concrete footings are permitted
- ♣ All food cages must be removed by the tenancy termination date

5.27 Duty of Care

- ♣ You are reminded that at all times, even when not on site you have a duty of care to others, including visitors and trespassers.
- ♣ You shall take care when using strimmers, rotovators, grass cutting machines and other mechanical or powered equipment so as not to cause injury or harm to others.

6. Termination

The tenancy will terminate immediately:

6.1 if you die, or;

6.2 if you transfer or attempt to transfer the tenancy to someone else or permit someone else to use the allotment for their own use

7. Termination by you

- 7.1 You must not abandon the allotment without telling the Council in writing.
- 7.2 If you abandon the allotment without telling the Council that you wish to stop renting it then the tenancy will not end and you will continue to be responsible for the allotment until the Council satisfy themselves that the tenancy has ended.
 - 7.21 *If you decide that you no longer wish to rent the allotment you may simply write to the Council, quoting the plot number and the allotment site, to say that you no longer wish to rent it. Providing you have kept to these terms and conditions then the tenancy will end on the date that the Council receives your letter or at a future date advised in the letter.*

8. Termination by the Council

- 8.1 By law the Council may end the tenancy without notice if the rent is in arrears for 40 days or more
- 8.2 By law the tenancy of the allotment may be ended by the Council after one month if the Council give to you notice in writing:
 - 8.21 that you have not within three months of the start of the tenancy (including any new tenancy) complied with these Terms and Conditions and any terms and conditions displayed on the allotment site.
 - 8.22 that at the date of taking a tenancy of an allotment, the resident was living within the Town boundary, and has later moved to live more than one mile outside the Town.
 - 8.23 By law the tenancy will also end on a no fault basis at the end of not less than 12 months' written notice given to you by the Council expiring at any time between the 29th September and the following 6th April in any year.
 - 8.24 at the end of not less than 3 months' notice in writing given to you by the Council that the allotment is required for any statutory purpose other than agriculture or building mining or any other industrial purpose or for roads or sewers necessary in connection with any of those purposes,
 - 8.25 if you have not at the end of **thirty days** written notice given to you by the Council requiring you to do so, put the allotment into a good state of cultivation well manured and removed any weeds, unless there are mitigating circumstances such as illness why you have been unable to do so.
- ♣ The plot must be left in a clean and tidy condition and clear of any associated debris and rubbish at the termination of the tenancy.

Note: Buildings are considered to be sheds, greenhouses, polytunnels and food frames or cages. Sheds should not exceed 7ft6” (2.29m) in height and have floor area not exceeding 36sq.ft (3.34sq.m). This would permit up to 6ft x 6ft (1.83m x 1.83m) or 7ft x 5ft (2.14m x 1.52m). The shed should be for allotment storage uses only. Greenhouses should not exceed 50 sq.ft (4.65sq.m), 8ft (2.44m) x 6ft (1.32m). Polytunnels should not exceed 150 sq.ft (13.9sq.m) 10ft (3.05sq.m) x 15ft (4.57m). Larger size buildings will not normally be permitted any larger size building will need to have supporting evidence to justify a variation (also refer to 3.11 and 3.23 in the rules above). Hedges should not exceed 6ft (1.32m) in height.