

Kelvedon Parish Council

Beekeeping on the Allotments Policy and Application

**Approved January 2019
Review due January 2022**

Kelvedon Parish Council

Bee Keeping on Stoney Flint Allotment Site

Permission Conditions and Procedure

Allotments have had a long tradition of bee keeping and the recent decline in honey bee numbers is of national and international concern. Kelvedon Parish Council (the Council) are keen to support bee keeping and believe that honey bees play a critical role in the biodiversity of allotment sites and the wider environment.

Any tenant wishing to keep honey bees must obtain the permission of the Council and are subject to the conditions detailed below.

CONDITIONS

1. Siting of Hives

- Hives will be sited in a designated apiary area which has been identified, agreed and approved by the Council.
- The site has been inspected and approved by an experienced beekeeper.
- In line with BBKA guidance, hives are NOT permitted if an allotment is adjacent to a school or livestock holdings.
- Hives are not to be permitted on individual plots (as they may be in close proximity to neighbouring tenants).
- The number of hives on the site in total will be monitored and restricted to prevent overpopulation of any one site.
- In line with BBKA guidance, hives will be on an area of the allotment land sited as far as possible from any public road or path, or jointly used road or path within the allotment site.
- The location where the hives are situated has simple screening, such as is used for windbreaks of fine mesh netting, dust screening, willow, hazel or maintained hedges of a minimum 2.0 metres height to encourage the bees to fly high over neighbouring plots.
- The hive(s) will be so sited that only the beekeeper can approach it or them. Bees operate on instinct, individual and shared. Hives should only be approached by a trained beekeeper.
- The Council is to be informed if the beekeeper/s increases the number of hives in advance or as soon as is practical. The total may not exceed the permitted maximum number of hives.
- If the number of hives increases due to splitting in order to control swarming, this should be a temporary arrangement if it exceeds the permitted maximum, with the number of hives reduced to the permitted maximum by at the latest by the end of summer. The Council must be kept informed.

2. Consultation

Tenants will apply to the Parish Council to keep bees by submitting the application form and supplying all of the required details.

Upon acceptance, the tenant will notify tenants of their request to keep honey bees by a notice prominently displayed and the Parish Council will notify all tenants. Such notices should be displayed for a minimum period of 28 days between April and September and 56 days between November and March, indicating that a request to keep bees had been submitted to Kelvedon Parish Council.

3. Consent

The beekeeper owes a duty of care to:

- The public in the vicinity of the hives
- Other allotment gardeners working nearby
- Intruders (even though it is clear that their intention was to disturb the colony)

The beekeeper must display a sign on their designated apiary area, stating honey bees are located there.

The Parish Council will ensure that members of the public registering for, or joining, an allotment with hives are notified at the earliest opportunity.

4. Stand-By Arrangements

The beekeeper must provide the Parish Council with details (name, address, telephone number and mobile telephone number) of adequate stand-by arrangements to deal with emergencies such as swarming during any absence or unavailability of the beekeeper.

On no account should any person other than an experienced beekeeper try to take a swarm, whether the swarmed bees are placid or not.

5. Inspection

Hives will be inspected on a regular basis (and at least annually) by the Parish Council, as part of regular plot inspections.

6. Complaints

The Council will investigate any complaints, and in particular those with health and nuisance elements, and in consequence may subsequently withdraw the permission via issue of 30 days notice for the removal of hives.

7. Insurance

The beekeeper is required to hold a current insurance policy which provides specifically for beekeeping risks and includes Public Liability Insurance cover for a minimum of five million pounds (£5,000,000). Proof of adequate insurance cover at renewal will be required each year.

We require potential beekeepers to become members of the British BeeKeepers Association (BBKA) which may include such insurance cover.

The beekeeper must annually provide the Parish Council with copies of the renewed insurance certificate and proof of current member of the BBKA.

8. Training

The beekeeper must have completed the Basic Bee Keeping Course and gained the Basic Certificate.

9. British Bee Keeping

You must become a member of the BBKA.

10. Sale of Honey

The beekeeper will not display notices that honey is available for sale on the allotment site or plot. A modest amount of honey related products may take place at the Allotment Association's fundraising/community engagement events/activities with the Parish Council's permission.

11. Withdrawal of Consent

Kelvedon Parish Council may withdraw the permission at any time by giving 30 days notice to remove hives if:

- The permit holder contravenes any of the above conditions.
- The permit holder contravenes any conditions within the Allotment Tenancy Agreement or any separate Parish Council tenancy rules.
- Substantiated information is received that requires a review of the arrangements.
- Any costs resulting from withdrawal of consent shall be borne by the tenant.
- If an allotment tenant no longer keeps tenancy of an allotment plot, then he or she will no longer be permitted to keep bees.

12. Diseases

The beekeeper is required to register all hives with the National Bee Unit's 'Beebase' (part of Defra). Guidance is available from their website: <http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/>

If a beekeeper suspects their honey bees have Notifiable Brood Diseases such as AFB/EFB they should report the issue immediately to Kelvedon Parish Council and the National Bee Unit (NBU) to arrange for an inspector to assess the honey bees by contacting the:

National Bee Unit, Sand Hutton, York, YO41 1LZ, UK

nbu@apha.gsi.gov.uk

0300 3030094

If diseased bees are to be disposed, advice should be taken from the NBU on appropriate disposal methods or their local beekeeping association. NBU inspectors will supervise the destruction of bees and hives in the case of American Foulbrood (AFB) and if need be for European Foulbrood (EFB), and as needed in the case of imported pests.

**KELVEDON PARISH COUNCIL
APPLICATION TO KEEP HONEY BEES
Stoney Flint Allotment Site**

All tenants are required to sign and return the following form agreeing to the Conditional Terms of Tenancy.

Name of tenant/bee-keeper	
Allotment Plot Number	
Address	
Home Telephone Number	
Mobile Telephone Number	
Location of Hive	
Date Signage Displayed	
Date when Signage Consultation Ends (28 or 56 days after display)	
Name of Insurer	
Policy Number	
Policy Expiry Date	

EVIDENCE REQUIRED	EVIDENCE ATTACHED
Copy of bee keeping public liability insurance certificate	
BBKA Membership number and an entry in relevant yearbook or details of any local association of which you are a member.	
Evidence that tenant has attended a BBKA Basic Bee Keeping course (copy of certificate) /Experience	
Contact details of stand-by arrangements of an alternative beekeeper who can be contacted in emergency	
Site Location Plan	

Acceptance of Terms

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the additional Conditions of Tenancy for the keeping of honey bees. I confirm that I have agreed the location of the apiary and displayed the notice for the agreed period, as above and I agree to adhere to all the good practice guidelines from BBKA and the requirements of the Parish Council. I confirm that I have received and read the Parish Council’s Privacy Notice and agree to undertake a probationary period of 12 months.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

Application form and evidence to be returned to:
Kelvedon Parish Council
The Old Bank
63 High Street
Kelvedon
CO5 9AE