

Ampfield Parish Council – Allotment User Agreement

ALLOTMENT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND RULES

General

Ampfield Allotments are owned and managed by Ampfield Parish Council.

Eligibility

To be eligible for an allotment, the applicant must at the time be a permanent resident of the civic Parish of Ampfield and either the only applicant or at the head of any waiting list.

Applications are to be made to Ampfield Parish Council who maintain a waiting list.

If a User moves outside the Parish of Ampfield, the User Agreement will be terminated at the end of the period when fees are paid up to.

Usage Agreement Rules

Every User shall sign an undertaking on first entry to abide by all the rules and conditions.

A User shall not sublet or otherwise assign any part of the plot to another person.

A User shall not change his/her plot, acquire another plot or otherwise alter the User Agreement without prior agreement.

Users are required to notify Ampfield Parish Council clerk promptly of any change of address or contact details.

Rental and fees

Rental charges for plots will be fixed by Ampfield Parish Council annually. Any other fees falling to be paid regularly or ad hoc by Users may be fixed at any time by Ampfield Parish Council. The current amount of rental charges and any other fees may be found on the Ampfield Parish Council website.

Users shall pay one year's rent in advance annually on 1 October, the "Annual Rent Day", unless otherwise agreed in writing.

If the rental is in arrears on the 29th day of October, the plot will be forfeited.

Where a plot is forfeited after a first or second warning letter to a User or after an appeal, no part of that year's rental will be refunded.

The allotments are nominally "1/4 size" or about 55 - 60 m² - this will vary.

As at 1 October 2021:

the annual rental for this plot will be £60 to include water and electricity;
there will be a refundable deposit of £50 for the plot to allow for making good should a User leave it in an unsuitable condition to be taken on; and
there will be a £25 refundable deposit for door keys.

Allotment Rules (plots)

All Users shall keep their plots clean and in good cultivation. Plot number signs to be displayed clearly.

Users shall not cause nuisance or annoyance to other Users or to neighboring properties.

No sheds, greenhouses, poly-tunnels or other structures are to be constructed on the plots.

Users may not plant any trees (except soft fruit bushes) or hedges on their plot or obstruct any path.

Users must keep the verges and paths to their plot properly levelled and trimmed.

No animals or livestock may be kept on the plots.

No bonfires or rubbish bins are permitted on the site and plot holders are required to remove from the site and safely dispose of all rubbish and waste, including diseased or blighted plants.

No parking is permitted at the allotment site other than four parking spaces adjacent to the allotments. If these are all taken, Users are required to use the nearby public parking spaces.

Bicycles may not be left outside the allotment gates.

Children and pets must be kept under control at all times on the allotment area.

No watering by hose or sprinkler or any mechanical pump system. Watering is to be by hand and by watering cans only.

No radios or music are allowed.

No artificial lighting is allowed.

No selling to the public from allotments is allowed.

Camping or overnight staying is not allowed.

Compost heaps must contain only plant matter from the allotment.

Wind chimes are not allowed.

Debris and litter must be removed on a daily basis.

Opening hours of the allotments are dawn to dusk within the limits of 8.00AM to 8.00PM.

Allotment Rules (buildings)

The buildings consist of a disabled toilet and a kitchen/store room for the use of allotment holders only.

The allotment holders must ensure that the toilet and kitchen/store is left clean and tidy. The toilet must be left clean after use. All rubbish must be removed from both the toilet and kitchen/store.

No muddy boots allowed in the toilet and kitchen/store.

The last person to leave the allotment site must ensure that the toilet and kitchen/store are securely locked.

Damage to, or disrepair of the buildings should be reported to the parish council.

No radios or music are allowed.

No artificial lighting is allowed.

Materials may only be placed within the store with the approval of the parish council. Such materials must be non-combustible

Access and Inspection

Ampfield Parish Council may inspect allotments regularly, typically at least twice a year, without prior notice to Users. Councilors, staff and contractors on behalf of Ampfield Parish Council may enter the allotments without notice at other times for inspection or other official purposes.

Authority for any other public or other access should be sought from Ampfield Parish Council.

Complaints Procedure

If a plot is reported or found to be in a poor state of cultivation, or if any other complaint is received, Ampfield Parish Council will consider taking action.

If, in the view of Ampfield Parish Council Clerk, there are grounds for action, Ampfield Parish Council Clerk will send a letter of enquiry to the User seeking the reason for the non-cultivation or an explanation of the complaint. This is deemed to be a first warning.

If a reply that is satisfactory in the view of Ampfield Parish Council Clerk is received within 28 days of the date of the warning, no further action need be taken on that issue.

If the User does not reply or offers no satisfactory response within 28 days of the warning, a second warning letter will be sent, giving the User notice of the termination of the User Agreement within 14 days.

If a User retains a plot after a first warning but is the subject or a subsequent substantial complaint or evidence of infringement of the rules, a second warning letter will be sent, giving the User notice of termination of the Usage Agreement within 14 days.

On receipt of the 14 days notice to quit the User will have the right to appeal to Ampfield Parish Council, such appeal to be made within 14 days of the date of the second warning letter. If no appeal is made or the appeal is not upheld, the Usage Agreement is forfeited and must be vacated within 14 days of the decision.

The decision on any appeal should normally be made within one month of receipt and notified to the User in writing.

The decision of Ampfield Parish Council is final.

Where the notice to quit has not been challenged, an appeal has been dismissed, or is otherwise applicable, the User will be held responsible for the removal of all personal property (including crops) from the site within 14 days. The plot may then be re-let without further notice to the former User.

Termination of User Agreement

The User Agreement of an allotment shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing, terminate on the next Annual Rent Day but will normally be renewed for a further year.

A User may terminate a User Agreement by giving 28 days' notice in writing. If the resulting date of termination is before 31st March, then a refund of rental fees paid may be made for the unused whole months. If the date of termination is on or after 1st April, then no refund is due.

Ampfield Parish Council may terminate a User Agreement if the rent is in arrears for at least 28 days from the due date and /or if the User has received two warning letters over non-compliance or other complaint and has not invoked or not successfully invoked the appeal procedure set out in above.

Disputes

In the event of a dispute between Users and/or complaint from Ampfield resident(s), it will be for Ampfield Parish Council to determine a resolution. This may include termination of the Usage Agreement concerned.

The decision of Ampfield Parish Council will be final.