

ALLOTMENTS - RULES FOR KEEPING POULTRY

Flamborough Parish Council currently permits tenants to keep poultry on the allotments. No other livestock is permitted.

POULTRY

1. There are three statutory provisos attached to the keeping of hens on an allotment, namely that hens are not kept in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health, do not create a nuisance to others and do not affect the operation of any other law e.g. animal welfare legislation.
2. Section 12(1) of the Allotments Act 1950 abolishes any contractual restriction on keeping hens (and rabbits) on an allotment. The Act does not refer to cockerels but to hens only.
3. Section 12(1) provides that hens (and rabbits) should not be kept by way of trade or business i.e. eggs or meat from the allotments cannot be sold.
4. Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to any animal and the Act also contains a duty of care to animals where anyone responsible for an animal must take reasonable steps to make sure that the animal's welfare needs are met. This is regardless of whether they are classed as pets or farm animals. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 sets minimum standards for all farm animals and these are made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 as above. DEFRA produce codes of practice and Flamborough Parish Council will apply these codes to all poultry kept on their allotments with tenants being given a copy of these documents if requested or they can be accessed at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69367/pb7274-laying-hens-020717.pdf and <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/onfarm/documents/broiler-consult09/annex-g.pdf>
5. In order to ensure that these provisos are complied with and that best practice is followed, Council will apply the following conditions:

GENERAL

- a) Tenants occupying less than a ¼ plot will not be permitted to keep poultry.
- b) Tenants must have written permission from the Council to keep poultry and sign the form of agreement to abide by the conditions. Permission will be viewed on a case by case basis.
- c) Tenants must read and be guided by DEFRA codes of practice for 'meat and breeding chickens' and 'laying hens', see point 4 above.
- d) The maximum number of birds permitted per plot is 20.
- e) The total combined area of henhouse and run must not exceed 50% of the allotment plot.
- f) The tenant must keep their poultry under proper control to avoid disturbance or nuisance to others within and without the allotments.

ACCOMMODATION

- g) A fully enclosed henhouse must be provided to an adequate size to accommodate all poultry.
- h) The henhouse must be predator proof and must be provided with clean dry bedding material e.g. straw to absorb moisture and odour.

- i) The henhouse must provide year round shelter from wind and rain and also provide adequate shade and ventilation. It must be cleaned at least once a week.
- j) The henhouse must provide perches for sleeping and nest boxes sufficient to accommodate the needs of all poultry.
- k) A fully enclosed outdoor caged run must be provided.
- l) Both henhouse and run must be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from faults which may cause injury to a person or any poultry.

ADVISORY NOTE

In order to give ground time to recover, it is advisable to move the run and/ or the chickens from time to time.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

- m) The tenant must have the knowledge and skills, or access to these, to ensure the physical and mental well-being of the poultry e.g. be able to carry out essential care such as worming, nail and wing clipping, lice and mite treatment.
- n) The tenant must arrange to have the poultry checked at least once daily and provide competent care and management for the poultry.
- o) The tenant must provide the poultry with continuous and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water.
- p) The tenant must provide the poultry with a regular supply of feed /grit appropriate to their age and species.
- q) To minimize rat problems, feeders must be raised above ground level. Food must be stored in rat-proof containers. If rat traps are laid they must be regularly maintained and of a recognized standard to avoid trapping any other animal or bird.
- r) Tenants must remove sick or injured poultry. They must not be left and treated at the allotments.
- s) Poultry must not be killed on the allotments except in an extreme emergency where animal suffering is a possibility.

ADVISORY NOTE

It is advisable that all poultry brought on site should be vaccinated.

INSPECTION

- t) The council has the right to inspect poultry, henhouses, and runs at any time.
- u) Any allegations of maltreatment will be firstly raised with the tenant but, if the Council has cause for an investigation, the costs of inspection and/or treatment by vets or other experts in animal welfare shall be the sole responsibility of the tenant.