

# **Yelvertoft Parish Council**

Addendum to Allotment Agreement: Issue 1: May 2020

## **GUIDELINES FOR KEEPING HENS ON ALLOTMENTS**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

Allotment Tenants may keep hens on allotments, but not cockerels as under the Allotments Act 1950. This is on the condition that they are not “kept in such a place or in such a manner as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance”. Any cockerels that are on an allotment at the time of this agreement may be retained, but not replaced at any time without the express agreement of the Parish Council. This also applies to any other livestock that an allotment holder may wish to keep.

### **2 REGISTRATION & INSPECTION**

2.1 Tenants are required to make an application to Yelvertoft Parish Council (YPC) to keep hens (or any other livestock) on their allotment. Details of the plot number, number of hens and size and location of hen house and outdoor run must be given. Personal contact details must be provided as well as those of others who will be caring for your chickens during holidays etc so that we may contact them if there is problem. Please write separately to the Clerk with your application, even if you already have hens on your allotment: [clerk@yelvertoft-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@yelvertoft-pc.gov.uk)

2.2 Tenants are responsible for the hen’s welfare and must ensure they do not cause a nuisance to others. Please see Clause 7 in the Allotment Tenancy Agreement.

2.3 The granting and maintaining of permission is dependent on YPC conditions being met and guidelines followed. Failure to do so may result in an instruction to remove the hens and all housing.

2.4 Any representative of YPC, without prior notice, has the right to enter the plot to inspect the hens at any time. If the Parish Council has cause to investigate complaints of maltreatment or other matters of concern, any costs incurred will be passed to the tenant for payment.

2.5 The tenants Allotment Tenancy Agreement will be terminated in the instance of failure to adhere to these guidelines, and thus in breach of their tenancy agreement.

### **3 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

#### **3.1 Housing**

3.1.1 Housing is important in ensuring the welfare of hens and should allow expression of natural behaviours.

3.1.2 Both the hen house and outdoor run must be regularly maintained to a good, tidy standard and free from obvious faults that may cause injury.

#### **3.1.3 Hen house**

A fully enclosed shelter providing a minimum size of 2 square feet (0.2m<sup>2</sup>) per hen is required. The optimum size will be 4 ft by 3ft. The maximum permitted size of building structure on an allotment is

6ft x 10ft and only one structure per allotment plot. If the allotment tenancy ceases, the plot must be cleared of all structures.

3.1.4. The fully enclosed shelter must provide the following:

3.1.4.1 Protection from predators.

3.1.4.2 Clean dry bedding material to absorb moisture and odour (e.g. wood shavings or straw).

3.1.4.3 Warmth during colder months or shade during summer. As a general guide the aim should be to achieve a temperature range of 10°C - 20°C.

3.1.4.4 Be draught free but have adequate ventilation.

3.1.4.5 Perches

The Poultry Club of Great Britain Welfare Guidelines recommend that 'perches should be a minimum of 4cm wide, not round, to avoid twisted keel / breast bones' ..... old cycle inner tube wrapping helps to avoid pressure on feet pads and also deters red mite infestation which live in cracks in old timber.

3.1.4.6 Nest boxes for laying eggs.

3.1.5 Outdoor Run

3.1.5.1 Fully enclosed caged run that provides a minimum size of 4 square feet (0.4m<sup>2</sup>) per Hen, providing the hens with plenty of space to dig, dust themselves and flap their wings. The maximum size is 6ft x 10ft. (2M x 3M approx.)

3.1.5.2 There should be an included means of overhead shelter e.g. covers to provide hens with protection from direct sunlight, strong wind and driving rain.

3.1.5.3 The structure must be allowed periods of rest to allow the ground to recover.

3.1.5.4 The total area of the hen house and run should not exceed more than 10% of the total allotment plot area although the maximum permitted size will be 6ft x 10ft. (2M x 3M approx.)

3.2 Food & Water

3.2.1 Hens should have continuous and plentiful access to cool, clean and fresh water, feed appropriate to the age and species of hen and in sufficient quantities as well as insoluble grit to aid digestion.

3.2.2 Food stuffs must be stored so they are kept clean, tidy, and properly protected from rodents and other pests.

3.2.2.1 At all times rodent prevention methods must be maintained and any rodent sightings or infestation must be immediately reported to YPC. Should infestation occur, the tenant must take action to eradicate the infestation, including spread to other allotments, any failure to do so then YPC will take such steps as appropriate to control such infestation, the full cost of this plus an administration fee of £25 will be payable by the tenant whose holdings are causing the infestation.

At no time will YPC be held responsible for any damage caused as a result of the keeping of hens (or any other livestock) anywhere on the allotment site, that will be entirely down to the owner of the hens.

### 3.3 Health and Welfare

3.3.1 The allotment tenant is responsible for ensuring that their hens are free from distress, pain, injury and disease.

#### 3.3.2 Preventative and/or veterinary treatment

3.3.2.1 Hens must be vaccinated prior to arrival or at 6 weeks old.

3.3.2.2 Hens will need regular worming (twice a year) and clipping of claw nails to maintain them in a good healthy condition.

3.3.2.3 Hens must be checked regularly for lice and the houses treated for Red Mite.

3.3.2.4 Any health serious or longstanding or contagious problems must be reported to YPC immediately as well as details on the treatment being received and notification when the problem has cleared.

#### 3.3.3 Sanitation

3.3.3.1 The henhouse and run should be cleaned a minimum of once a week or more frequently as necessary.

3.3.3.2 Tenants are responsible for the removal of all arisings from the site. Soiled bedding must not be composted anywhere on the allotment site.

#### 3.3.4 Number of Hens

3.3.4.1 Poultry need companionship and should be kept in groups of two.

3.3.4.2 The maximum number of hens permitted per allotment tenant should be 5.

## 4 Nuisance to Neighbours & Cleanliness

4.1 Provided the above guidelines on housing, food and water and health are followed, hens should not become a nuisance to others. (See Clause 7 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement).

## 5 Breeding & Profit

5.1 Allotment tenants are not permitted to breed hens on the allotment site nor profit from the sale of any produce (See Clause 7 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement)

## 6 Breach of conditions

6.1 The tenancy may be terminated by the Council by service of one month's notice in accordance with clause 11 and clause 8 of the Tenancy Agreement.