

Box Parish Council

Allotment Policy (incl Rules)

Policy no. 52



Date Approved	Oct 25
Review Date	Aug 28
Committee	Open Spaces

Allotment Policy, Information and Rules

Introduction

1. This policy has been developed by the Parish Council of Box in the County of Wiltshire with respect to the allotment gardens within the Parish of Box.
2. The Council's intent is to make as many allotment plots available to meet demand.
3. Throughout these Rules the expression "the Council" means the Parish Council of Box and includes any committee of the Council or any allotment managers appointed by the council under the allotments Acts 1908 to 1950.
4. The Council will provide a numbered plan showing the position of each allotment plot (attached). This plan may be modified at any time to suit the demands and abilities of existing or potential tenants.

Eligibility

5. Anyone who is resident in the Parish of Box shall be eligible to be a tenant of an allotment garden. If they should become resident outside the parish, the Council may terminate the tenancy.
6. In letting an allotments preference shall be given to those who do not already have the use of an allotment garden or other cultivable land (whose garden space is less than 3 x 4 m). Subject to that preference, the plot shall be offered to the applicant whose name appears first on the Council's allotment waiting list.
7. An agreement to let an allotment garden to an applicant may be signed by the Clerk of the Council on behalf of the Council and shall incorporate these rules.

Overarching Responsibilities as an allotment holder:

8. **The Council adopted its Climate Change Action Plan (Release 1) in September 2021 this includes the goal of increased environmentally positive land management. We would like to encourage allotment holders to support and share this vision, and help with plastic reduction, promoting soil health and enhance biodiversity with techniques such as netting, mulching, hand weeding, encouraging natural predators and where necessary using only organic pesticides.**

Extant Allotment Rules

9. Keep the allotment garden tidy and in a good state of cultivation and fertility.
10. Not cause any nuisance or annoyance to the occupier of any other allotment garden or obstruct any path set out by the Council for the use of the tenants.

11. Not sublet, assign, or part with the possession of the allotment garden or any part of it (unless it is agreed by the council)
12. Not, (without the consent of the council) cut any timber or other trees, or take, sell or carry away any mineral, soil, sand, gravel or clay.
13. Not, erect a building on the allotment garden, but may have a storage box for tools & equipment no greater than 1.8 m long x 0.6m wide x 0.8 m high.
14. Not use barbed wire for a fence adjoining any path set out by the council on the allotment site.
15. Not keep materials or equipment on the allotment, other than those for horticultural use, and any materials used for ground cover or plant protection shall be taken away or stored neatly when not in use.
16. Any member or officer of the council shall be entitled at any time when directed by the Council to enter and inspect an allotment garden.
17. The rent of an allotment shall be paid annually in advance on the 1st of January of each year.
18. The tenancy of an allotment garden shall, unless otherwise agreed in writing, terminate on the yearly rent day next after the death of the tenant.
19. It may also be terminated by the Council after 1 months' notice:
 - a. if the rent is in arrear for more than 40 days after it falls due; or
 - b. if the tenant is not duly observing the rules affecting the allotment garden, or any other term or condition of their tenancy. The tenant will be given a one month's period to rectify the situation failing which notice to vacate will be given in writing.
20. The tenancy may also be terminated by the Council or tenant by 6 months' notice in writing expiring on the 31st day of December in any year, or at shorter notice by mutual agreement.
21. No alcohol to be brought onto or consumed on the allotments without the prior consent of the Parish Council.

Additional Allotment Rules

22. **The 50% Rule.** To ensure that plot holders are making the most of their allotment, the Council has articulated a 50% Rule; this means that at least half of the plot must be under cultivation.
23. **Bonfires** are now prohibited. Woody debris that is too large to compost (untreated and free from wire and nails) may be left at the designated area just outside the allotment gate (Mill Lane end). The Parish council will chip this and leave it for the allotment holders to use.
24. **Metdehyde slug pellets** are now prohibited and we would encourage use of wildlife friendly methods of slug control such as barrier methods, nematodes and beer traps.

While the council have not yet banned ferric phosphate slug pellets, we would encourage allotment holders to only use as recommended by the RSPB:

25. **Chemical Use.** “The use of chemicals to manage slugs is not recommended. However, as a last resort, slug killers based on ferric phosphate are an option if used sparingly and stored safely. They contain ferric phosphate or iron III phosphate, which affects the gut system of snails and slugs causing them to stop feeding and die within three to six days. Although ferric phosphate is less toxic than metaldehyde, the other ingredients in the tablets can also affect earthworms and, if consumed in large quantities, can poison pets.”
26. **Peat base compost** is now prohibited. Please only use peat free composts and soil conditioners going forwards, noting that all of the UK Wildlife Trusts support the total banning of peat sales and use, as do Friends of the Earth, the RSBP and The International Union for Conservation of Nature.
27. **Glyphosate formulations**, such as Roundup or Weedol are now prohibited.
 - a. Glyphosate has direct and indirect effects on the environment. Indirect impacts on birds and other animals occur due to the wiping out of weeds and wild flowers, destroying habitats and food supplies. Glyphosate is water soluble and has had significant effects on species that underpin the entire aquatic food chain with amphibians being particularly vulnerable.
 - b. It upsets the balance of microbial communities in soil, increasing the numbers of some microorganisms and decreasing others, impacting on soil fertility. It has caused an upsurge in some crop diseases in no-till agriculture by stimulating the growth of a number of fungal pathogens. It also binds micro-nutrients in the soil causing deficiencies in plants.
 - c. Glyphosate has also been found to have adverse effects on earthworms, beneficial insects and bees. The World Health Organisation has listed glyphosate as probably carcinogenic to humans.
28. **Pesticides.** Always avoid the use of pesticides, and please check labels before buying.
 - a. Mixtures of pesticides commonly found in UK food, water and soil may be harming the health of both humans and wildlife. There are many different types of garden pesticide serving many different needs. These include insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides. There are botanical forms of pesticide that are available as well. These are generally derived from plants and considered ‘organic’ by some; however, these may still be toxic to beneficial insects and wildlife.

References and Useful links

29. <https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/animal-deterrents/organic-pest-control/>

30. <https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/organic-pest-control/>

- 31. <https://www.pan-uk.org/gardening-without-pesticides/>
- 32. <https://www.gardenorganic.org.uk/weed-management>

Box allotments

