

BUCKINGHAM ALMSHOUSES AND WELFARE CHARITY

Rules and Regulations relating to Gawcott Allotments

1. These General Rules of the Allotments may not be altered or rescinded except by the Trustees of the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity.
2. Allotment holders are required to acquaint themselves with these General Rules and to comply with them in every respect. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action or expulsion from the allotments.
3. The Trustees of the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity cannot accept liability in the event of loss or damage to allotment holder's property (including growing plants) on the allotments or in premises rented from and controlled by the charity.
4. No member may rent allotments from the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity which in total exceed 20 poles.
5. Allotment holders must ensure that their plot is properly cultivated and maintained within its prescribed boundaries to the satisfaction of the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity. Those whose plots are considered to be in an unsatisfactory condition will be sent a warning letter.
6. Allotment holders who fail to heed a written warning about the condition of their plot may have their tenancy terminated by the Charity.
7. All sheds and other erections must be properly maintained and must not impede or obstruct access to the ridings or paths or represent a safety hazard to other allotment holders.
8. Permission for new allotment sheds must be applied in writing to the Secretary with a site plan showing the position of the shed and must not exceed 6 feet (length) 4 feet (width) and 6.5 feet (height).

9. Sheds and other erections shall be used only for the purpose of storing gardening tools, accessories and produce and not for any other purpose unrelated to gardening.

10. The Chairman and Secretary of the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity shall carry out regular inspections of the allotments and shall take on behalf of the Trustees, such action as may be judged appropriate (see rule 5) against any plot holder whose allotment is found to be in an unsatisfactory condition.

11. The planting of new fruit trees is restricted to “standard”, “half standard” or “dwarf stock” varieties and limited to four trees per 10 poles. All trees and bushes must be planted at least three feet inside an allotment boundary. The ground beneath trees must be kept free of weeds.

12. Allotment holders must not under any circumstances sub-let any portion of their allotment.

13. Allotment holders must not leave litter or rubbish (exempt compost) of any description (or allow any person for whom he or she is responsible to do so) on their plot or anywhere else on an allotment site.

14. Stones or rubble must not be left on ridings or paths or deposited in hedges or ditches.

15. Access to the allotments is restricted to plot holders only and to their spouse or dependents. The Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity reserves the right to expel or exclude any person from the allotment site who is not a plot holder and whose behaviour is unacceptable.

16. Allotment holders are responsible for ensuring that grass on paths and sections of ridings bordering on their plots are cut regularly and that paths and ridings are kept clear of obstacles.

17. Care must be taken in the use of any pesticide, fungicide, herbicide or chemical fertilisers. Plot holders who are in doubt should seek the advice of the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity.

18. Dogs are not allowed on the allotment site unless accompanied by their owners and kept on a lead at all times. Owners must ensure that their dogs do not foul crops, ridings or paths.

19. Any dispute between plot holders should be referred to the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity which will consider it at their next scheduled meeting. The Charity's decision will be final.

20. Plot holders may not keep livestock including bees and poultry, or pets on the allotments which are only to be used for horticultural purposes.

21. Any plot holder wishing to relinquish their allotment must give one month's notice in writing to the Secretary.

22. Allotment rents must be paid by the 31st March of each year that they are due and any plot holder who has not paid their rents by the 1st May immediately following the due date and has not given a valid reason acceptable to the Secretary, then the Charity will deem that the plot holder has given up the tenancy of their allotment.

23. The rents will be reviewed from time to time by the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity.

24. Allotments are restricted to residents living within five miles of Gawcott.

25. An initial deposit against rent payments and a deposit for the issue of an allotment gate key are required. These deposits are refundable on return of the key when a plot holder relinquishes their allotment or their tenancy is terminated by the Charity. The key is for your personal use only and must not be given to anybody else. You may be asked to forfeit your allotment if the Charity is made aware of this practice.

Dated September 2011, amended November 2014 and June 2016 (charity name)