

## **Bere Ferrers Parish Council Poultry Policy**

### **Guidelines for keeping poultry on allotments:**

Bere Ferrers Parish Community Council will permit a plot holder to keep poultry on an allotment as long as the following rules and guidelines are complied with.

The Council reserves the right to refuse permission for a plot holder to keep poultry or to insist that a plot holder either removes or reduces the number of birds kept on a plot.

- The plot holder to notify the Parish Clerk, in writing, of their intent to keep poultry and sign a agreement to abide by the conditions.
- The plot holder must ensure that the poultry do not cause a nuisance to other plot holders.
- The accommodation for the poultry must be secure and maintained in good condition. It must not exceed the tenancy rules on size of structure but must meet the minimum guidelines shown below.
- The area around the henhouse and run must be maintained and so that it does not attract rodents. It is recommended that the house be of wire and each fence dug down at least two feet into the ground.
- The plot holder must not allow wild birds to come into contact with the chickens. The use of small mesh for all enclosures will help prevent contact with other birds. Cover all coops with netting and ensure no gaps in the netting in order to prevent wild birds from entering the coop.
- Grain and pellets loose on the ground attracts vermin. The plot holder must use specific food dispensers and ensure all dispensers are cleaned regularly and any spillage cleared up as quickly as possible. Feeders must be raised above ground level. Feed must be stored in vermin proof containers, preferable metal.
- All poultry must be kept in good health. Good hygiene minimises the risk of animal disease and the plot holder is responsible to ensure disease is controlled. It is important to know the normal behaviour of poultry and the flock must be watched closely for early signs of distress or disease.
- The plot holder MUST inform the council of any serious, long term or contagious health problem and the steps being taken to counteract the problem.
- The plot holder will be responsible for the disposal of any dead birds in accordance with current legislation.
- The plot holder must ensure own hands, clothes and footwear are clean both before and after contact with your birds.
- The tenant is responsible for the removal of any and all structures and associated items relating to the poultry on termination of tenancy. Any costs to be the responsibility of the tenant. Any cost the Council incurs cleaning the site after termination will be billed to the outgoing tenant.
- Keep ducks and chickens separate at all times.
- All tenants must be following central government guidelines to detect and prevent the spread of avian flu. These guidelines can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-how-to-prevent-it-and-stop-it-spreading>.

### **General welfare guidelines.**

- Chickens must be kept in groups of at least 2 for companionship purposes.
- You must ensure that they are checked at least once a day by a competent person, as stated in Schedule 1 Section 2 of The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007.
- They must have continuous and plentiful access to suitable feed and water.

### **Inspections**

The Council has the right to inspect poultry, henhouses, and runs at any time.

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.

### **Vermin Control**

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 states that the Council has an obligation and responsibility to ensure that land is kept free of rats and has a pest control management plan in place to remove the rats. The Council has the right to inspect for rat infestation and use of rodenticide on allotments and charge any costs incurred back to the tenant.

### **Notices on display**

A notice giving contact details of the chicken keeper and a back-up contact in case of absence must be displayed clearly on the chicken coop.

Name of poultry keeper

Address Mobile phone

Email

Home phone

Backup in case of absence –

name

Address

Mobile phone

Email

Home phone

Last reviewed	Minute no 460. Open Spaces Committee Meeting, 16th January 2024
Next review	2025