

Beekeeping Policy

THE SITE

- A designated site will be provided by the Parish Council to minimise inconvenience to residents, allotment plot holders and passers-by.
- The site must be screened to a level not less than 2 metres high to encourage bees to fly above this height - this will be at the expense of the beekeeper.
- The site must have access to a shallow pond/water source for the bees.
- Hives must be kept on the designated site/area provided by the Parish Council.
- The number of hives will be restricted to a maximum of 3 hives per beekeeper.
- Each application is to be presented to the Parish Council who retain the right to refuse further applications.
- A communal sign must be displayed on the site with contact numbers of each bee-keeper together with emergency contact information.
- The Parish Council reserves the right to request the immediate removal of any hives if a nuisance is caused.
- The Parish Council will co-operate fully with Defra and Regional Bee Inspectors regarding access to hives in the event of disease.

THE HIVES

- All hives must carry a suitable mark identifying the owner.
- Hives must not be used for storage of equipment not containing bees.

THE BEE-KEEPER

- The beekeeper must be a paid up member of a local beekeeping association affiliated to the British Beekeepers Association. This membership carries public liability insurance of up to £5m should there be loss or damage as a consequence of the bee-keeping.
- The beekeeper must demonstrate that he/she has obtained, or is studying for, a formal qualification in bee-keeping (such as the BBA "Basic Assessment" examination or equivalent) which demonstrates competence in management and manipulation of bees.

BEE-KEEPING

- The beekeeper should only introduce "docile" bees and not bring on to the site colonies that are known to be aggressive. If a colony is unnecessarily aggressive, it should be re-queened with a queen from a reputable supplier of "docile strains".

- The beekeeper must practice effective methods of swarm control and carry out regular inspections (at least once a week during the swarming season) for signs of swarming. The beekeeper must provide cover for this if he/she is away or sick.
- The beekeeper should take all steps to minimise inconvenience to others and should ensure that any “manipulations” are not carried out when there are others nearby or when the bees are disturbed.
- The beekeeper must ensure that the Parish Council knows how to contact him/her if there is a problem with one of the hives.
- The beekeeper must arrange for cover when he/she is not available.
- Bee-keepers should always be prepared to discuss the bees with anyone interested and may wish to consider displaying an observation hive at prearranged times to enable others to view the bees at work. In such an instance, spare veils must be provided for closer inspection of a hive.

***David Nevin
Parish Clerk***