

Woburn Sands and District Allotment Society Ltd

*An Industrial and Provident Society
Registration No. 8139R*

By Laws

April 2010

Registered Office:

**Keens, Shay, Keens and Co
Sovereign Court
230 Upper Fifth Street
Milton Keynes
MK9 2HR**

Woburn Sands and District Allotment Society Ltd

1. Each Member of the Society (hereafter called Member) holds one share for each 5 pole plot cultivated. The value of each share is 10p¹. No Member may hold more than 4 plots or 40 poles².
2. A non returnable payment is required to become a tenant.
3. Each member shall pay £5.00 for one key to the padlock on the gates, this money is refundable on return of the key when leaving the Society.
4. All plot holders are tenants for a probationary period, usually 12 months, or longer, if deemed necessary by the Committee.
5. Following the first AGM after the probationary period ends, a share certificate for the plot/s will be issued at a cost of £2.00 per share.
6. Every Member shall pay their pole charges, and any other monies owing, punctually on the days, and at the time and place appointed by the committee (usually the Annual General Meeting). The Member who holds the plot on the 21st of March each year shall be liable for the pole charges. A levy can be introduced at any time to cover unforeseen expenses and it shall be levied in proportion to the Member's shareholding.
7. Every Member shall keep their allotment in a proper state of cultivation. It is the responsibility of the Management Committee to ensure the good husbandry of the allotment society. To this end, the Management Committee will proceed in the following manner:
 - a) All plots will be inspected twice each year, in May and July.
 - b) In the event of any Member's allotment, or part thereof, being neglected so that it becomes overgrown with perennial or other weeds, the committee shall in writing, request the Member concerned to put it in good order by cultivation within one month. If the Member fails to do this efficiently within the time stated, the committee shall arrange to have the ground cleared of weeds by mowing or otherwise, and shall recover the cost from the Member concerned.
 - c) Overgrown plots will be cut down within the timescale indicated above and the offending Member will be charged £25.00 for this action be it for part of, or for the whole plot.
 - d) Should this occur the following year a surcharge will be levied at an additional £25.00.
 - e) After two years, the Management Committee will seek the expulsion of offending Members from the Society under rule 10 of the Constitution.
8. It is expected that members cultivate their own plots. This may be done with the help of family and friends. Members shall not sublet. (Subletting in this context is defined as allowing others to cultivate their plot instead of the member **or** renting the plot to another person.)
9. The Secretary will keep a waiting list of people requiring allotments and the Committee will allocate these according to the order in which application is made. Priority will be given to residents of Woburn Sands.
10. The Allotments are private property and access is via gates to which all Members have a key. Members should close and lock gates on leaving the field. Members shall not pass keys on or make copies. Members may request a second key for the cost of the key cutting.
11. No encroachment or trespass shall be made by any Member on a neighbouring allotment and no damage shall be done by a Member to the fences, gates, gateposts or to the cropping on any of the allotments. The Committee shall assess any

¹ Friendly Societies Act 1992

² Allotments Act 1922

damage done either by a Member or by a person accompanying that Member, and the offender shall pay such sum as the Committee may determine to the Member who has suffered the damage, or to the society. Theft of produce from plots will lead to immediate termination of membership and expulsion from the Society

12. **Strangers in the field.** All Members, without putting themselves at risk, shall challenge any person they suspect of not being a Member who is seen in the allotment field. It must be stressed that the society's privacy must be protected at all times.
13. Every Member shall keep the road or roads bordering their allotment in good repair and shall promptly remove any refuse or substance placed thereon. Grass and weeds growing on the roads are to be kept cut back and not allowed to seed.
14. Fruit trees or bushes shall not hang over the roads or adjacent allotments.
15. Written consent is required from the Management Committee should a plot holder wish to keep bees, rabbits or hens³ (not cockerels). No other livestock will be considered. If bees, rabbits or hens are kept, this must be done so in accordance with the strict guidelines provided by the Committee and so that there is no nuisance to any other plot holder or to the neighbours of the society. Rabbits or hens shall be kept in such a manner that is not prejudicial to health.
16. The Committee administers communal purchase, distribution and maintenance schemes to provide income for the society. No other commercial enterprises may take place **on** the field⁴.
17. Written consent is required from the Committee to erect greenhouses, sheds or other structures larger than 8ft x 6ft (2.4m x 1.8m).
18. Dogs shall not be taken on the field except on a leash.
19. Only small, hand operated rotavators (max. 5hp) and lawn mowers may be kept on the field.
20. **Bonfires are not allowed on the Allotment Field.**
21. Cars or other vehicles are not allowed on the field except for delivery and collection purposes and must carry a minimum of third party insurance.
22. Written permission must be obtained from the Committee for pest control for rabbits etc. prior to such activity.
23. **Plot award.** Judging shall take place about late June or early July. Judges shall consider the quality of crops, pest control and general tidiness of the plot, path and roadways.
24. A copy of the registered rules will be given to all new Members and can be seen on application to the secretary at a convenient time. A copy is on the web site.
25. No amendment to these By-Laws shall take effect until it has been sanctioned by a general meeting of the Members. Due notice of the proposed amendments being given in the notice convening the meeting.

April 2010

³ Allotments Act 1922

⁴ Allotments Act 1950 Section 12