

## **Beekeeping Policy for Spaldwick Parish Council**

### **Background**

Spaldwick Parish Council acknowledges that bees form an important role in maintaining a diverse and healthy countryside and that bee-keeping would be an environmentally beneficial activity for the village. The Parish Council also understands that siting beehives on the Town and Poors field, adjacent to the Spaldwick allotments, could be advantageous for the ecosystem and even improve the yield on the plots through improved pollination of the plants and vegetables on the site.

Spaldwick Parish Council, therefore, wishes to support the installation of beehives on parish land.

### **Policy Terms**

All applications are to be made in writing to the Clerk of the Parish Council and will be considered on an individual basis at the earliest convenient Parish Council meeting; each application can be subject to individual conditions.

The beekeeper should display a prominent notice to notify users of the Town and Poors Field of the intention to keep bees on the site and bee sting first aid advice.

There will be a consultation of the Spaldwick Allotment Association before any hives or bees are allowed on the Town and Poors field.

If the Parish Council receives any objections (e.g. on allergy or medical grounds), the matter will be investigated by the Council in order to determine whether the hive should not be introduced, an alternative location sourced or for it to be removed.

No beehives are to be placed on allotment plots

No beehives are to be placed on any other Parish land without the express written permission of Spaldwick Parish Council; verbal agreements will not apply.

Any person wanting to keep bees on parish land must be a member of a Beekeeping Association.

Beekeepers must accept full responsibility in writing for the hive(s), while providing evidence they are suitably qualified to take care of a hive. They must also produce valid public liability insurance (copies of the renewal documents to be provided to the Clerk to the Parish Council annually).

A person keeping bees on Parish Council land must also provide a risk assessment.

Prior consent from the Council must be obtained for any change in the location and number of hives kept on site

A person keeping bees must ensure that the bees are encouraged to rise before leaving the plot using screening, (e.g. wooden fencing) of a minimum height of two metres. This will help ensure that the flight path (of low flying bees) minimises contact with people and consequent alarm.

A person keeping bees on Parish land must satisfy the Parish Council that they have made adequate arrangements to ensure that any problems caused by their bees in their absence will be resolved. The beekeeper must provide the Council with details (names, address, telephone number) of adequate stand-by arrangements to deal with emergencies (e.g. swarming) during any absence or unavailability of the bee keeper. These details must also always be prominently displayed on the gate to the hives.

The Council will investigate any complaints and in particular those with health and nuisance elements in relation to the hive(s).

The beekeeper is to remove the hive(s) immediately if requested to do so by Spaldwick Parish Council and, if circumstances dictate, without notice and with no recourse or refund of any fees.

I hereby accept and agree to abide by the Conditions of the Spaldwick Parish Council beekeeping policy and to pay the £25.00 annual fee.

I confirm I will be installing ---- hives and will seek permission for any change to this number.

Signed: -----

Dated: -----

The Council hereby accepts the above signatory, as a beekeeper, upon adherence to the conditions set out above.

Insurance Details Provided :----- Dated: -----

Signed:----- (Chairman)-----