

Strumpshaw Parish Council

Allotment Rules (Revised November 2025)

Document Control		
Adopted		Minute ref:
Next Review Date	November 2028	

Introduction

Strumpshaw Parish Council is committed to supporting a thriving, respectful, and well-maintained allotment community. These rules ensure fair use, safety, and enjoyment for all plot holders, while protecting shared resources and the environment. We aim to foster cooperation, transparency, and shared stewardship.

Allotment holders are encouraged to raise questions and contribute to site care. The Parish Council will conduct at least one formal inspection annually, with advance notice and an open invitation for tenants to attend.

These rules should be read alongside the Parish Council's Allotment Policy, available at: <https://strumpshaw-pc.gov.uk/general-policies-and-publications/>

1. Cultivation and Use of Plots

1.1. General Responsibilities

Tenants must cultivate their plots to preserve fertility, keep them tidy and weed-free and maintain them to the satisfaction of the Parish Council. This includes keeping the paths immediately adjacent to their plots tidy and weed-free, as part of their overall maintenance responsibility.

1.2. Uncultivated Plots.

If a plot is left uncultivated:

- 1.2.1. A written notice will be issued giving 28 days to improve the plot.
- 1.2.2. Tenants may appeal in writing within 14 days.
- 1.2.3. The improvement period may be extended in exceptional circumstances.
- 1.2.4. If the plot remains below standard, the tenancy will be ended.
- 1.2.5. As guidance:
 - 50% of the plot should be cultivated by end of Year 1
 - 75% by end of Year 2

1.3. Tenant Obligations

Tenants must:

- 1.3.1. Use the plot for private, non-commercial cultivation of vegetables and fruit.
- 1.3.2. Avoid causing annoyance to neighbours, residents, or Community Hall users.
- 1.3.3. Keep adjacent paths weed free and roadways clear.
- 1.3.4. Maintain visible and intact plot marker borders.
- 1.3.5. Permit authorised inspections by the Parish Council.
- 1.3.6. Use the locked tap responsibly; sprinklers and hosepipes are prohibited.
- 1.3.7. Not use bonfires, fireworks, Chinese lanterns, or helium balloons.
- 1.3.8. Help us use water wisely. If the shared underground tank needs topping up, the cost will be split equally between the six allotment plots and added to your annual rental invoice, which is usually emailed in April.

2. Sheds, Greenhouses and Other Structures

2.1 Shared Shed Block

Tenants must:

- 2.1.1. Use the compartment matching their plot number.
- 2.1.2. Provide a padlock.
- 2.1.3. Store only appropriate items (tools, trays, bagged compost/fertiliser).
- 2.1.4. Not store gas bottles, barbecues, or fuel.

2.2. Additional Structures

- 2.2.1. No additional structures may be erected without Parish Council approval.

2.3. Greenhouse Specifications

Greenhouses must:

- 2.3.1. Be proprietary (not homemade).
- 2.3.2. Measure no more than 1.95m (w) × 1.95m (d) × 2.1m (h).
- 2.3.3. Use safety glass or polycarbonate.
- 2.3.4. Be located at the western end of the plot.
- 2.3.5. Be at least 1m from any path.
- 2.3.6. Must be placed on a removable base (e.g., slabs). Solid concrete bases are not permitted.
- 2.3.7. Structures must not encroach on paths, including between adjacent plots.
The Parish Council may require removal of any non-compliant structure.

3. Cutting and Pruning of Trees

- 3.1. Communal or perimeter trees/hedges must not be cut or pruned without written approval.
- 3.2. Trees with preservation orders must not be touched.
- 3.3. Tenants may prune trees on their own plot if they impede cultivation. When in doubt, seek written permission. Pruning must not affect neighbouring plots, communal areas, or shared boundaries.

4. Keeping of Livestock, Insects and Other Animals

- 4.1. Livestock and bees are not permitted.
- 4.2. Dogs may be brought on site only if kept on a lead or properly tethered. They must not be left unattended. Owners must clean up after their dogs and dispose of waste responsibly.

5. Children

- 5.1 Children are welcome but must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

6. Access and Conduct

Tenants must:

- 6.1. Use only authorised access routes.
- 6.2. Gates must be locked immediately after entry or exit to maintain site security and prevent unauthorised access.
- 6.3. Follow any additional conditions issued by the Parish Council.
- 6.4. Park considerately in the hall car park, within marked bays.
- 6.5. Not obstruct Mill Road or park on Mill Meadow.
- 6.6. Pay for any damage caused through use of the allotments or car park.

7. Prohibited Activities

- 7.1. No advertisements or signage.
- 7.2. No sub-letting or assignment of plots.
- 7.3. No barbed wire.
- 7.4. No removal or sale of soil, turf, timber, or minerals.
- 7.5. No storage of explosives, flammable liquids, or noxious substances.
- 7.6. No unauthorised work on water, electrical, or gas installations.

8. Disclaimer of Liability

The Parish Council accepts no liability for any damage, accidents, or losses incurred on the allotment site, including within shared facilities such as sheds and water infrastructure. Tenants are advised to insure personal belongings stored on site, including within sheds and greenhouses. Tenants use the site and its amenities entirely at their own risk.

Declaration

These Allotment Rules were adopted by Strumpshaw Parish Council on:

.....

Signed:
(Chair)

Allotment Holder Agreement

I agree to abide by the SPC 2025 Allotment Rules.

Signed:

Dated:

Allotment Holder:
(please print name)