

Beehive Placement on Council Land Policy

Dalton with Newton Town Council

1. Purpose

Dalton Town Council recognises the environmental importance of bees and other pollinators in supporting biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.

This policy sets out the Council's approach to permitting the placement of privately managed beehives on Council-owned land where this supports the Council's environmental, biodiversity, and wildlife objectives.

2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- Council-owned land designated or managed for wildlife, biodiversity, environmental enhancement, or community green space purposes
 - Any individual seeking permission to place and manage a beehive on Council land
 - Councillors, volunteers, community groups, or members of the public entering into such arrangements with the Council
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3. Policy Statement

The Council may permit the placement of beehives on suitable Council-owned land where:

- The arrangement supports biodiversity and pollinator activity
- The location is considered appropriate and safe
- The hive is managed by a competent and responsible beekeeper
- The arrangement does not interfere with public use of the land or create unreasonable risk or nuisance

Permission for any hive placement shall remain entirely at the discretion of the Council.

4. Requirements for Beekeepers

Any beekeeper granted permission to place a hive on Council land must:

- Be appropriately experienced or registered where required
- Maintain the hive in accordance with recognised beekeeping standards and relevant legislation
- Be solely responsible for the maintenance, inspection, welfare, and management of the hive
- Ensure appropriate measures are taken to minimise risk to the public
- Comply with any disease control requirements applicable to beekeeping
- Remove the hive promptly should the Council request this for operational, safety, or land management reasons

The beekeeper shall remain responsible for all costs associated with the hive.

5. Site Selection

The Council will consider:

- Public accessibility and safety
- Proximity to footpaths, play areas, and neighbouring properties
- Suitability of the surrounding habitat
- Potential impact on other users of the land
- Accessibility for hive maintenance

The Council reserves the right to determine the exact location of any hive.

6. Insurance and Liability

The beekeeper shall be responsible for ensuring they hold any appropriate insurance cover considered necessary for their activities.

The Council accepts no responsibility for:

- Loss or damage to the hive or equipment
- Theft or vandalism
- Any liability arising from the management or presence of the hive

A separate agreement between the Council and the beekeeper shall set out operational responsibilities.

7. Councillor Interests

Where a Councillor is involved in any arrangement relating to a beehive on Council land:

- Relevant interests must be declared in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct
- The Councillor should not participate in any decision-making where a declarable interest exists

The Council shall ensure transparency in all such arrangements.

8. Termination of Permission

The Council reserves the right to withdraw permission for a hive at any time where:

- Safety concerns arise
- The arrangement no longer supports the intended use of the land
- The hive is not appropriately maintained
- Complaints or operational issues cannot reasonably be resolved

Reasonable notice should normally be given where practical.

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Council and updated as required

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Adopted by Dalton Town Council: ____Bruce Solari____

Date: ____01/06/2026____

Review Date: ____June 2027____

C11/06/2026a