**Stotes Hall Allotment Gardens Society (SHAGS) *Update: March 2023***

**Terms of Agreement**

1. The period of tenure runs from 1 May 1 to 30 April 30. There is a joining fee of £20.
2. Annual rent of £30 (subject to review at each AGM) effective 1 May, payable to the Treasurer in advance. After one month’s period of grace, default signifies surrender of plot and forfeit of joining fee. Rental for 6 months allowable for new members from 1 November to 30 April.
3. **Safety**: Allotment sites have potential hazards. Parents are responsible for children at all times.
4. At least 75% of each plot to be available for full cultivation, i.e. in readiness for growing, or well-stocked with growing produce (vegetables, fruit and flowers) relevant to time of year, or in process of being prepared for next crops or season.
5. Plot to be kept largely free of weeds and not interfere with neighbouring plots or paths; particular attention must be paid to invasive weeds (e.g. mare’s tail, bindweed, couch grass, knotweed).
6. Regular site inspections take place; members will be advised if the plot falls short of cultivation and maintenance standards. Notice of one month will be given to address any shortcomings.
7. No permanent structures or horizontal struts over 0.75 m high to be erected on the plot.
8. No shrub/tree (except fruit tree) to be pruned/destroyed/removed without Secretary’s approval.
9. Existing trees and shrubs to be preserved and recreation and wildlife habitat areas respected in accordance with Allotment Map (*see 16*).
10. Only natural or organic fertilisers are permitted; weed killers not to be used.
11. Work off or on plots (including fires) to cause no nuisance to plot holders, local residents or public.
12. Small controlled fires on plots may be lit 1 November-31 March ONLY (summer BBQ excepted).
13. Every plot holder is responsible for maintaining surroundings of their plot, disposing of all rubbish and keeping adjacent paths free. In addition, s/he is expected to help maintain communal aspects of the gardens and attend at least one clearance event each year.
14. No plot holder is to receive financial gain for their tenure. Plot holders must cultivate their own plots: no payments to be made to others to work a plot.
15. No livestock are permissible. Dogs to be kept on leash.
16. All members to be aware of the allotment guidance of Urban Green and the SHAGS Allotment Map (*see below for website link - printed copy available on request*).
17. A plot holder who is no longer cultivating their plot is requested to inform Secretary immediately.
18. A plot holder cannot ‘underlet’ or otherwise transfer a plot to another person.
19. Plot holders agree to abide by all these conditions and accept they are liable to forfeit the plot, and joining and membership fee, if they fail to do so.

**NAME of PLOT HOLDER: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed and dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**CONTACT DETAILS and INFORMATION**:

Management issues: 0191 281 2131 (Ralph Pattisson, Hon Secretary)

Payments: john.farrington@talktalk.net (Hon Treasurer)

General communications: contact@stotes-hall-allotment.org.uk (Assistant Secretary)

SHAGS Allotment Map: <https://stotes-hall-allotment.org.uk/sha/> (in “Resources”)

Urban Green: <https://urbangreennewcastle.org/allotments>

*Members are encouraged to be active in the society, attend the AGM and raise issues for discussion!*