

Moss Lane Allotments Association

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

VERY IMPORTANT

ISSUED 25/8/23 - The committee of Moss Lane Allotment Association hereby calls a special general meeting to take place on **Monday 4th December 2023 7pm** at Southport Football Club, Haig Avenue.

The purpose of this meeting is to propose and vote upon changes to our constitution as follows:

Proposed changes are in **red** and will be voted on by the members for acceptance on the evening of the SGM.

The existing constitution is on the web site. A copy of this notice is available on the web site (news page)

Amendment 1

Clause 5 will be amended to read:

c.(new) Committee members will serve for a 3 year term, and may offer themselves for re-election at the end of their 3 year term. No committee member may serve for more than 3 terms (9 years) unless members give express permission at the AGM. Effective from January 2023.

d. (new) Any committee member can resign at any time by giving 3 months notice to the committee.

e. (new) No chair person may serve beyond the age of 75 (or the end of their 3 years term after 75).

Committee members can serve at any age

Amendment 2

Clause 7 will be amended to read:

a. Must reside within the Borough of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council and be aged 18 or over **when they are allocated their plot. After being given a plot they must surrender their plot if they move more than 2 miles beyond the Sefton boundary.**

c. Will be issued with a key to the site entrance gate. (New tenants initially on payment of a deposit.) If a key requires replacing for whatever reason then a replacement fee of **£20** must be paid. **The gate must always be closed after entering or leaving.**

d. Shall not sub-let, assign or part with possession of a plot or any part of it without prior written consent of the Association. (Including the use of any shed, locker or greenhouse). **No individual is allowed to work on or use somebody else's plot except for short periods of time (eg. to assist through illness) and only with the express permission of the committee in advance.**

f. Shall use their plot as an allotment garden. No other use is permitted. **Plot holders must grow a variety of a number of different types of vegetables/ fruits / Flowers. No more than 50% of the cultivated area of a plot can be used to grow one single vegetable/fruit or flowers.**

h. Must use the Allotment Gardens for their own personal use and must not carry out any business or sell produce cultivated from Allotment Gardens. **Any proven commercial use of an allotment will result in the loss of the allotment from the following 31st October.**

K (new) No tenant can be named on more than one plot. From 1st January 2024 anybody who is named on more than one plot will have to surrender any additional plots that they are named on.(This does not apply to anybody named on two plots pre 1st January 2024.)

Amendment 3

Clause 11 will be amended to read

Dogs are allowed on site subject to being under proper control and must not be allowed to enter any other allotment garden without the plot-holders permission. Dog faeces must be removed immediately and members who fail to comply will be issued with a **£50 fine. Failure to pay such a fine within 30 days will result in eviction of the member from the plot with 30 days notice.**

Amendment 4

Clause 12 will be amended to read

12. Hosepipes and sprinklers **connected to the site taps** may **not** be used, under any circumstances for watering plots but can be used to top up water butts only. **Anybody topping up water butts must yield to anybody wanting to fill a watering can, which takes priority.**

Amendment 5

Clause 17 will be amended to read

Asbestos may not be used on any plot or brought onto the site by any member for any reason. It is our policy to have an Asbestos Free site. **Any asbestos on a plot can be removed by the committee without the plot holders permission being required. Any damage as a result of asbestos removal is the tenants liability.**

Amendment 6

Clause 18 will be amended to read

18. It is expected that tenants will consider other plot holders, specifically.

a. When using fertilizers or sprays care must be taken to avoid chemical drifts, leaches or the contamination of other plots. Care needs to be taken on windy days.

b. Consideration should be also given to Honeybees and wildlife on the site.

c. Similarly, care must be taken with bonfires to ensure there is no nuisance to other plot holders and fire is not spread to other combustible material. Fires should not be left unattended.

d. The use of weedkiller should be limited and not in communal areas (such as roads and pathways) Weedkiller must not be used on a day when the wind is more than 5mph and advance notice should be given to neighbours (at least 48 hours). Ideally weedkiller should be organic where possible. We want to aspire to be an organic site.

e. The use of any animal poisons of any sort is not allowed under any circumstances.

Amendment 7

Existing point 20 will become new point 22 (amendments proposed below)

Existing point 21 will become point 23 (unaltered)

Amendment 8

A new point 20 will be created

20. Any theft of property from anywhere will result in immediate termination of tenancy.

Amendment 9

A new point 21 will be created

21 All tenants must complete a personal details data collection form every 2 years or when requested by the committee. Failure to do so will result in a formal warning. All member details must be up to date, any changes should be notified to the committee when they occur.

Amendment 10 - Point 22 (previously point 20) will be amended as follows

22. Termination of Tenancies.

a. Physical abuse, verbal abuse, written abuse, obscene language or indecent actions by a Tenant towards any other plot holder or visitor to the allotment site shall result in the termination of that persons' tenancy.

b. In the event of any plot which, in the view of the committee, is not being cultivated or kept to a reasonable standard, the Tenant will be approached initially to see if there are any problems that the Committee could help resolve. If the plot continues to be uncultivated a letter will be sent to the tenant informing him/her that if cultivation does not commence, then their tenancy will be terminated on 1st October

c. Any breach of allotment rules, as contained in this constitution (points 7 to 22) may also result in a formal warning. Any tenant receiving 3 formal warnings within 730 consecutive days (2 years) will have to vacate their plot by the 1st October following the issuance of the third formal warning, this decision will be final.

All points will be proposed at the SGM for immediate adoption from the 31st December 2023.