

RULES FOR FARMING, REIGHTON, 1727

The document below has previously appeared in George Alcock's "Historical Notes of Reighton" published in the 1930's. George Alcock was at that time vicar of Reighton and the parchment was kept in the parish safe. It is now kept at the East Yorkshire Archives in Beverley where I spent a pleasant afternoon transcribing it from the original. The parchment is folded, faded and, in places, very difficult to read. Where my transcription differs significantly from George Alcock's I have put his version in square brackets. A pair or round brackets indicates that I was unable to read a word or group of words.

The figures in brackets after the forfeits are the modern day equivalents and are taken from the National Archives currency converter website set for 1730, this being the nearest date to 1727 available.

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Pains said [laid] and ordered (-) upon by the Jury at the Court March [Baron]. Thomas Fothergill [Cockerill], Gent, lord of the Manor of Reighton aforesaid the fourteenth day of October one thousand seven hundred and twenty six (-) [before] John Grimston, Gent, Steward of the said (-) [Manor] by and with the consent of the Lord of the said manor and the freeholders there present for the better regulating of the [said] towne and the towne and common field there as followeth

- 1st A Paine is laid that the Bylawmen¹ shall on or before the twenty fifth day of May drive the moore and other pasture and give account to the chief freeholder in pain of ever default 0 – 5 – 0 (£21.50)
- 2nd A Paine is laid that no oxen or cows [cove] be tethered in the upfield between May Day and all the corne be in pain for every default 0 – 3 – 4 (£14.33)
- 3rd A Paine is laid that the Ing gutters be scoured two foote wide and one foote and a halfe deep every year between the second day of February and May Day in pain of every default for every oxgang² 0 – 1 – 0 (£4.30)
- 4th A Paine is laid that all fields and pastures ditches be sufficiently repaired by the owners and all gates and stiles set [kept] in order by the Byelawsmen on or before the fifth [first] day of May on pain for every default 0 – 3 – 4 (14.33) [0-3-0]
- 5th A Paine is laid that no bottles of whinns³ be carried out of the said moor except of a man's owne land in pain for every default 0 – 0 – 0
- 6th A Paine is laid that none shall gather wooll at the sheepefold before eight of the (-) [aforenoon]in paine of every default 0 – 0 – 4 (£1.43)

¹ In most cases G A transcribes Byelawman rather than Byelawmen. It is impossible to say how many of them there were.

² The amount of land an ox could plough in a year – about 15 acres.

³ Gorse

- 7th A Paine is laid that noo person [or persons] shall carry away any brushing from any field [fence] in pain of every default 0 – 0 – 6 (£2.15)
- 8th A Paine is laid that (on the fold, very difficult to read) [swine within the] Lordship be cleansed and dressed as need in require in pain of every default 0 – 6 – 8 (£28.66)
- 9th A Paine is laid that every man keeping any swine shall keep sufficient swine styes that they may be fed [led] up at lawfull times in pain of every default 0 – 3 – 4 (£14.33)
- 10th A Paine is laid that none shall baite or teather any horse or cattle in the upfield above the towne at any time by night except in the time of Harvest in pain of every default 0 – 2 – 0 (£8.60)
- 11th A Paine is laid that no pasture be broken within the Lordship without the consent of the chief freeholders living in the towne in pain for every default 0 – 3 – 4 (£14.33)
- 12th A Paine is laid that noo swine shall depasture in any part [pasture] but the common outgate or fallows in pain for every default 0 – 0 – 6 (£2.15)
- 13th A Paine is laid that noo overstint be made in any of our pastures in pain of every fault 0 – 3 – 4 (£14.33)
- 14th A Paine is laid that if any Byelawman neglect the exertions [execucon] of his office in pain for every default 0 – 3 – 4 (£14.33)
- 15th A Paine is laid that noo person shall keep any scab'd or infectious horse in any of our pastures in pain of every default 0 – 10 – 0 (£42.99)
- 16th A Paine is laid that noo inhabitant shall have any moor [more] whinns in the common moor but what is used for fencing and burneing none to be sold out of the towne in pain of every default 0 – 6 – 0 (£25.80)

(Entry 17 is missing)

- 18th A Paine is laid that noo person or persons shall keep any more sheep than four in every oxgang of land and field [four] for every cottage house between Lady Day and Michaelmas neight [eight] for every oxgang and every cottage between Michaelmas and Lady Day (-) [hogs] not gated not till Lady Day in pain for every default for every twenty sheepe 0 – 1 – 0 (£4.30)
- 19th A Paine is laid that none shall tether any (-) [mares and]foales in the upfield between May Day and (Michaelmas?) in pain for every default (-) [0 – 1 – 0]
- 20th A Paine is laid that the Bylawmen shall on or before the first day of May in every year take an exact acct in writing of every mans stock of sheep in the

upfield deliver it to the chief of the freeholders for preventing any overstint in paine for every default 0 – 1 – 0 (£4.30)

- 21st A Paine is laid that noo person or persons shall fallow any inner [summer] fause Barton [Barley]land before midsummer and no more than one halfe before the fifth [first] day of August following in pain for every furrow plowed at any other time 0 – 6 – 0 (£25.80)
- 22nd A Paine is laid that noo ducks or geese shall feed or despasture in any part of the water sewer, water course or pond between St Ellen Well and Oxthorpe Lane end in pain for every duck or goose [geese]for every default (-)
- 23rd A Paine is laid that none shall baite or teather any horses or other cattle upon any part of the common Baillie [balke] above the towne in pain for every default 0 – 3 – 4 (£14.33)

(At this point the handwriting changes and becomes much clearer. LB)

- 24th A Paine is laid that every freeholder and tenant shall digg and stubb up by the rootes their respective oxgangs of whinns in the Hills beginning about ten yards from the Ing Dyke and digg and Hewe every yeare thirty yards until they come to the Hill foote and to begin to digg at Martinmas one thousand seven hundred and twenty seven in pain for every default in not digging the land [same] before Lady Day yearly for every oxgang 0 – 4 – 0 (£17.20)
- 25th A Paine is laid that noo person or persons shall in the time of harvest make use of any Hay rake or any other smaller rake to gather up corn within the field of Reighton for every default 0 – 1 – 0
- 26th A Paine is laid that noo Person or Persons shall make use of any Sweath Rake or any other large Rake to gather Corn in the field of Reighton in the time of Harvest except a man on his own lands or a servant sent by him for the Masters own use for every default 0 – 2 – 0 (£8.60)
- 27th A Paine is laid that the shepherd or shepherds belonging to the Township of Reighton shall at any time or as often as they are requested by the Byelawman give an exact and true account for every mans number of sheep that is put before them or under their care for every default 0 – 2 – 6 (£10.75)

(On the back of the parchment, much faded, very dirty and difficult to read, is the following list of names)

[21]October 1727 [by the Steward, Reighton aforesaid. Jo Grimston, Steward]

Matthew Miln [Smith]
Rich (?) Maltby [Motby]
Rich [Will] Jordan
Matthew Smith (?) [Mark, his mark]
Francis Jordan
John Gurwood

William Maiman [Mainprise]
[Francis] Wood [his mark]
David D Coutass * [Cowtass] (The D is written large and irregularly as if David
Cowtass used it as his mark rather than an X. The other entries marked * are similar)
Henry Cooke
(-) his marke
Robert R Storey *
(-) his marke
Ralph R Puckeringe * [Vickerman]
John Janyson [Sampson]
Stephen Jefferson

Reighton Manor this [the]within written pains [parish] were [made] thirtieth day of
September 1734 read in the open. [court and were then certified, confirmed by James
Cockerill, gen, Lord of the Manor aforesaid by theJury of Reighton aforesaid

[James Cockerill]
Robert Simpson
Steward of this Court

Kath Mosse [Rich Motby]
Matt Smith
Will Jordan
Francis Wood
(-)
William Darley
John Sampson
John + Maltby [Motby] (signs with a cross)
Wm Mainprize
Stephen Jefferson
(-)
(-) [G]Wilkinson
(-) Maltby
(-) [Ralph] Vikerman
[Matt Laycock jun
- Jordan
John (his mark) Brambles
- Jordan
Matt – (his -) -