

THE NEW MILLS ALLOTMENT AND GARDENING SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

Name

1. The name of the society shall be 'New Mills Allotment and Gardening Society'(hereinafter 'The Society').

Aims and Objectives

2. The objectives of the Society shall be:

- a) To promote the interests of the Members in their gardening activities and with regard to the proper cultivation, good management and enjoyment of the allotments managed by the Society.
- b) To maintain and improve facilities which will help Members to pursue these activities.
- c) To maintain and improve the condition of its allotment site(s) as a whole and to encourage and educate others to do the same.
- d) To conduct negotiations with the relevant local authorities and others on all matters relating to local allotment provision.
- e) To co-operate with other allotment groups and other organisations and individuals in furtherance of Articles 2.a) – d) and in support of the principles of the Allotment Movement.

3. Membership of the Society

- a) Membership of the Society shall consist of all persons who subscribe to the objectives of the society and who have paid the appropriate annual subscription. Persons under the age of 18 may be admitted as junior members free of charge.
- b) Membership of the Society is a requirement for all tenants, including joint tenants, of the allotments managed by the Society
- c) A member shall cease to be a member in any of the following eventualities:
 - i) the death of the member
 - ii) the expulsion of the member
 - iii) the withdrawal of the member from the Society
 - iv) the non-payment by the member of any subscription and/or rent for a period of 40 days.
- d) All members shall pay such subscriptions and rents as the Society may determine at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting.
- e) The Society recognises that everyone has a contribution to make to our society, and a right to equal treatment. The Society aims to ensure that it will not discriminate against

anyone on the grounds of: age, class, employment status, physical or mental disability or mental health, race, religion, sex, marital status, caring responsibilities or sexuality.

f) The decision to expel a member who does not in its opinion conform to the rules and decisions of the Society will be taken by the Committee of Management and communicated to the member in writing/email, giving the reasons for the decision and giving 28 days' notice. Any appeal of the Committee's decision will be heard at a Special General Meeting as detailed in section 4c.

4. Society meetings

a) Members of the Society shall be eligible to vote at General Meetings.

b) An Annual General Meeting shall be held in November of each year or at such a time as a General Meeting shall decide.

c) Special General Meetings may be called if required by a minimum of 10 members, and the Secretary shall advertise the date and agenda according to 4 d.

d) At least fourteen days' advance notification of the date and agenda of any General Meeting, to include Annual and Special, shall be circulated to the Members.

e) Items for the agenda of the next General Meeting shall be communicated to the Secretary twenty one days in advance to allow preparation for the meeting.

f) At the Annual General Meeting, the accounts and Secretary's report shall be submitted.

g) No discussions shall be raised or resolutions proposed at General Meetings which are sectarian or illegally discriminatory in purpose or effect.

5. Committee of Management

a) The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee of Management, comprising the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These posts carry executive powers. Other officers may be elected, if considered appropriate by a General Meeting.

b) Tenure of any post on the Committee, and of all other offices voted for at a General Meeting, whether permanent or temporary, shall be voluntary, unpaid and open only to Members of the Society.

c) These Officers shall be elected for the ensuing year by majority vote at each Annual General Meeting of the Society. A quorum of 15 is needed for voting on a motion at any General Meeting.

d) Officers shall be eligible for re-election each year.

e) In exceptional circumstances, following the tabling of a specific agenda item to the effect, Officers may be dismissed by a majority vote at a General Meeting, with a quorum of 15 votes cast.

- f) The Committee of Management shall communicate to discuss issues relating to the Allotments, no less than once each quarter in addition to General Meetings.
- g) The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other elected members of the Committee shall keep accurate records of their dealings on behalf of the Society, which shall be available for inspection by Members.
- h) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt representatives of Local Authorities and funding bodies.

6. Finance

- a) The Committee shall maintain a bank account in the name of the Society and all monies received from any source on behalf of the Society shall be paid into that account, with the exception of a cash account, not to exceed £30. A separate account shall be maintained for the purpose of handling the finances of the polytunnel. Cheques shall be signed by a minimum of two signatories.
- b) Records and accounts of all transactions shall be kept by the Treasurer and shall be available for inspection by members.
- c) A summary of the accounts for the preceding year shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) An audit or independent examination, where necessary in law, or where the membership require, will be carried out by auditors or independent examiners appointed by resolution of a General Meeting of the Society.

7. Membership with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd. [National Allotment Society].

The adoption of this Constitution shall constitute an agreement to apply for one fully paid share in the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd. [National Allotment Society] and an agreement to pay such annual contributions as may be prescribed by the rules of the said Society.

8. Arbitration

In case any dispute arises between the Society or any of its offices and any member or person claiming on account of a member or under the Constitution, or in case of any complaint against any member, application may be made to the Committee for redress and should the Committee not bring the parties to agreement, the matter in dispute may be submitted to arbitration. One arbitrator shall be appointed by each of the parties concerned, and one by the Management Committee of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd. [National Allotment Society] The award of the arbitrators

shall be final, and the costs of such arbitration shall be borne by the disputing parties in such proportion as the arbitrators may determine.

In this rule the word "member" includes any person aggrieved who has for not more than six months ceased to be a member.

9. Dissolution

If the Committee of Management, by a simple majority, decides at any time on the ground of expense or otherwise that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, it shall call a Special General meeting of all members of the Society, giving at least 14 days' notice, stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed. If the resolution is confirmed by a simple majority, the Committee of Management shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be applied towards a similar society with similar aims and objectives, as agreed by the Committee of Management. The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd. [National Allotment Society] shall be informed of the Society's dissolution.

10. Alterations to the Constitution

Any proposal to alter this Constitution must be communicated in writing to the Secretary of the Society not less than 28 days before the date of the meeting at which it is first to be considered. An alteration will require the approval of a simple majority of voting members of the Society present. Notice of each such meeting must have been given in accordance with normal procedure, and not less than 14 days prior to the meeting in question and giving the wording of the proposed alteration[s].

Agreed at a Special General Meeting of the Society on 6th April 2005

Amended and agreed at the General Meeting of the Society on 12th February 2015 by the Members attending as per the meeting minutes.