

Ditton Allotments Tenants Society – Rules and Constitution

- 1. NAME** The name of the society shall be: **Ditton Allotments Tenancy Society.**
- 2. OBJECTS** The objects of the society shall be:
 - (i) To promote the interests of all members in the allotment activities and to take joint action for the benefits of members.
 - (ii) To conduct negotiations with the local authority and private landlords for the use of allotment land.
 - (iii) To take action to protect members against damage, trespass and theft.
 - (iv) To obtain a supply of seeds, fertilizers, tools and other horticultural equipment on behalf of members.
 - (v) Arranging lectures, film shows, demonstrations, competitions and other social events.
 - (vi) Co-operating with other gardening societies and environmental organisations in matters of mutual interest.
 - (vii) To negotiate with awarding bodies with the purpose of obtaining grants to improve the facilities at the allotment site.
- 3. Membership.** The Society shall consist of such persons whose applications for membership are approved by the Committee. There are 3 types of membership as listed below. Membership is based on the plot and every person connected with tending a plot will automatically be included in that membership. (Names to be registered with the secretary. Multiple plots count as one.)
 - (i) Full Membership: Available to plot holders only.
 - (ii) Social Membership: Available to ex plot holders as an automatic continuation of their membership. Social Membership is also available to anyone (not a plot holder) who wishes to partake in the activities of the society.
 - (iii) Honorary Membership: Awarded in recognition of service to the society.
- 4. Subscription.** Every member shall pay on entry into the Society a joining fee of £5 and an annual subscription as determined at the A.G.M. renewable on 1st April each year (see note).
- 5. Arrears.** Any member who is one month in arrears with his subscription shall be held to have ceased to be a member, unless explanation in writing is given to the Committee of extenuating circumstances.
- 6. Officers.** The Officers of the Society shall be a Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and, if desired, a President. They shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Retiring Officers shall be eligible for re-election. They shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.
- 7. Committee.** The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee of Management of not less than 2 members. The Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election. A quorum shall be 2 members. Sub- committee's may be formed to undertake special tasks from time to time, these will be co-opted from the membership and be dissolved upon completion of that task.
- 8. General Meetings.** The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time as the Committee or a General Meeting shall decide. Ten members shall form a quorum. At the meeting the audited accounts and Secretary's Report shall be submitted and the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year elected. Special General Meetings shall be called upon the

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requisition in writing to the Secretary of at least ten members. No party-political or sectarian discussions shall be raised or resolutions proposed at either Committee or General Meeting.

Business at the A.G.M. will be as notified on the agenda to be circulated in advance of the meeting. Any member wishing to raise subjects for discussion and voting on, should advise the Chairman or Secretary 3 days in advance of the meeting. Items not previously notified will not be voted on.

- 9. Bank Account.** The Committee shall open a banking account in the name of the Society and all monies received from any source on behalf of the Society shall be paid into such account. Two out of three signatories shall sign cheques.
- 10. Auditors.** The accounts will be submitted by the Treasurer at the A.G.M. and voted on. If the annual income of the Society exceeds £1000 then an independent auditor (drawn from the membership and not a member of the committee) will be appointed to audit the accounts and report thereon to the Annual General Meeting.
- 11. Membership of** The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd shall be applied for and it shall be a condition of membership to agree to pay such annual affiliation contributions as may from time to time be prescribed.

Note re – Subscriptions

- (i) Full Membership - Annual subscriptions will be as determined at the A.G.M. prior to the start of the year.*
- (ii) Social Membership - will be half the rate of the Full Membership. (Social membership will not automatically include the provision of the Allotment Magazine, if this is required then an additional fee must be paid to cover the cost of the magazine. Total subscription payable not to exceed the cost of Full Membership.)*
- (iii) Honorary Membership - will be free*

Date March 2011