

OAKWOOD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Adopted 26 March 2022

1. The Society shall be called the "Oakwood Horticultural Society".
2. The objects of the Society shall be:–
 - (i) to encourage horticulture and the cultivation of allotments and gardens.
 - (ii) to promote Shows, for the exhibition by amateurs of flowers, vegetables and fruit.
 - (iii) the purchase of horticultural and gardening equipment, materials and supplies for sale or hire to members only.
3. Membership of the Society, which may be subject to the approval of the Committee, shall be open to plot holders at Oakwood North Allotment site and residents in the neighbourhood of Oakwood, except that any member who moves away from the area shall not have to terminate his/her membership on that account.
4. The annual membership fee shall be determined by the Society at the Annual General Meeting, payable upon enrolment and subsequently on 1st April each year.
5. The Society may have a President and Vice-President(s) to be appointed at the Annual General Meeting and, in recognition of service to the Society, Honorary Life Vice-Presidents.
6. The business of the Society shall be administered by a Committee consisting of five officers of the Society viz:- Chairman, Secretary/Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Trading Shed Manager, Site Manager and up to three other Committee members all of whom shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. Only plot holders at Oakwood North Allotment shall be entitled to vote for the post of Site Manager, whereas all members shall be entitled to vote for the other posts. Any individual standing for election to the Committee must be proposed by a member of the Society and seconded by a further member of the Society.
7. The election of an individual to the post of Site Manager on the Committee is deemed to be a recommendation that that individual be appointed by Enfield Council as Site Manager of the Oakwood North Allotment site. Where the individual so elected is not currently the Site Manager of the Oakwood North Allotment site, the Committee shall inform Enfield Council that the plot holders have elected that individual and recommend that Enfield Council appoints him or her as the Site Manager of the Oakwood North Allotment site.
8. If the Chairman is unable to attend a Committee meeting the Secretary/Vice Chairman shall take the role of acting Chairman. If the Chairman resigns from the Committee the Secretary/Vice Chairman shall, in addition to his or her existing responsibilities, take the role of Chairman.
9. The Committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy in the offices of Secretary/Vice Chairman, Treasurer or Trading Shed Manager which may occur, and may co-opt additional members to the Committee.
10. The term of office of the President, Vice-President(s), and Officers of the Society and other members of the Committee elected under paragraph 6, shall expire at the next Annual General Meeting, but all such persons shall be eligible for re-election.
11. The Committee shall meet as frequently as it may consider necessary for the conduct of the business of the Society. Five Committee members at a Committee Meeting shall constitute a quorum.

12. The Committee shall have power to appoint from members of the Society such Sub-Committees as it may deem necessary and any Sub-Committee so appointed shall conduct its business in accordance with the direction of the Committee.

13. The Society shall maintain an account with a properly authorised bank which shall be required to honour cheques or other instructions signed on behalf of the Society by any two of the following:- Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary/Vice Chairman or other named officer.

14. The Financial Year of the Society shall end on the 31st October in each year and the Committee shall appoint an auditor to audit the Society's annual accounts.

15. An Annual General Meeting shall take place no later than 31st March in each year. Not less than fourteen days' notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given in writing* to all members of the Society, such notice to include details of the business to be transacted. The business to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting, for which the quorum shall be 12 members present at the start, shall be for the members to receive and if approved, to adopt the reports of the Chairman, the Treasurer, the Trading Shed Manager and the Site Manager and the Auditors; to appoint the President, Vice-President(s) and any Honorary Life Vice-Presidents (if any); to elect Officers and other members of the Committee as defined in paragraph 6; and to transact any other business which can be properly transacted at the Annual General Meeting and for which due notice has been given to members. Unless otherwise provided for, voting at an Annual General Meeting shall be by simple majority on a show of hands unless the Chairman directs that a secret ballot shall be taken. Only members whose annual subscription shall have been paid in full shall be entitled to vote.

16. An Extraordinary General Meeting for which a quorum shall be twelve members present at the start shall be convened by the Secretary/Vice Chairman at the request of the Committee or upon a written requisition being deposited with the Secretary/Vice Chairman, by not less than twelve members of the Society and stating the business for which the Meeting is to be called.

17. Unless otherwise provided for, voting at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be by simple majority on a show of hands unless the Chairman directs that a secret ballot shall be taken. Only members whose annual subscription shall have been paid in full shall be entitled to vote.

18. In accordance with paragraph 17, the Society shall only be dissolved at an Extraordinary General Meeting especially convened for that purpose, and then only provided that the number of members present be not less than one third of the total membership and the number voting in favour of dissolution be not less than three fourths of those present. The Society's assets comprising cash, money held in the Society's bank accounts and any other financial instruments shall be donated to Mind, [Registered UK Charity 219830] or, failing that, to any other charity with similar objects which promotes gardening for its rehabilitative benefits. All other assets, primarily but not exclusively the trading stock in hand, shall be distributed amongst other horticultural societies within the Borough of Enfield having similar trading facilities.

19. The Committee shall have power to affiliate the Society to any other body or bodies where it is of the opinion that such affiliation would be to the advantage of and in furtherance of the objects of the Society.

20. The Committee shall have power to determine any matter not provided for in these Constitution and Rules.

21. The Society's Constitution and Rules shall not be altered or amended in any way except at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting especially convened for that purpose and unless those voting in favour be not less than two-thirds of the members present at the Meeting.

*Communications in writing shall include those sent electronically.