

Dogmersfield, Winchfield & Crookham Village Horticultural Society

CONSTITUTION

1. **The Name –**

The name of the Society shall be the “Dogmersfield, Winchfield & Crookham Village Horticultural Society”.

2. **Objectives -**

The object of the Society shall be to promote good horticultural practices and fellowship between the three communities by: -

- (a) holding an annual Flower Show that caters for all ages.
- (b) establishing a library of horticultural books for use by members.
- (c) providing subsidised entry tickets to RHS gardens (especially Wisley).
- (d) holding an annual fête for the pleasure of both members and the local population.

3. **Membership -**

Membership consists of Family Membership and shall be open to all residents of the three villages of Dogmersfield, Winchfield and Crookham Village and to residents of nearby towns and villages. The Committee may confer Honorary Membership on individuals considered worthy of special recognition.

4. **Officers of the Committee –**

The officers of the Committee shall be Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and such other officers as shall be deemed necessary and no one individual shall hold more than one office at any time. The Committee shall appoint one of its number to act as Vice Chairman if the Chairman is unable to attend meetings. The Committee may also appoint distinguished individuals to the honorary positions of President or non-executive Vice Presidents.

5. **Election of Officers –**

The officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meetings of the Society and shall hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. The officers shall be eligible for re-election with an unlimited term of office.

6. **Conduct of the Society's Affairs -**

The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and other members who have an involvement in the subject under consideration at any time. The full Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to 6 members to serve as full committee members until the next Annual General Meeting and may appoint sub-committees or individuals to perform specific tasks as considered necessary.

7. **Ordinary Members of the Committee –**

Those Committee members who are not appointed as officers shall be eligible for re-election with an unlimited term of office.

8. **Ordinary Meetings of the Committee -**

The ordinary meetings of the Committee shall be held in accordance with tradition. That is to say, a post-mortem after each Flower Show and Fête, normally late in September, and then bi-monthly until March with increasingly frequent meetings, building up to the Show Day in July each year.

9. **Financial Year -**

The Society's financial year shall end on 31st December.

10. **Annual General Meeting -**

The Society's AGM shall be held within 3 calendar months following the end of the financial year, ie. no later than 31st March.

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting is to: -

- (a) approve the Chairman's Report on the work of the Society during the preceding year.
- (b) approve the Annual Accounts signed by the Auditor and Chairman, following a brief presentation by the Treasurer.
- (c) draw 2 tickets for a national flower show from a list of all members who have paid their annual subscription from the previous year.
- (d) elect Officers and Committee Members who shall be proposed as a team. No individual committee member shall be considered for election unless already approved by the Officers of the Society.
- (e) consider any motion which has been notified to the Secretary of the Society at least 28 days prior to the date of the AGM and which has been circulated to all members.

11. **Extraordinary General Meetings -**

The Committee has the power to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society at any time and must do so within 28 days of receiving a written request signed by 10% of the membership at such point in time. Notice in writing must be sent to all members not later than 14 days before such a meeting informing them of the date, time, venue and purpose of the meeting. No business other than that detailed in the notice shall be transacted at such an EGM.

12. **Chairman of the AGM or EGM -**

The President of the Society or, in his /her absence, the Chairman or Vice Chairman shall preside at any Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society. In the event of none of these being available, the Committee Members present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting.

13. **Quorum -**

No matters of policy shall be agreed at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting nor at a Committee Meeting unless a quorum is present. The quorum of a General Meeting shall consist of 10% of the membership and of a Committee Meeting shall consist of 4 members.

14. **Method of Voting –**

Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands.

15. **Subscription -**

The annual subscription shall be decided by the Committee and notified to all members at least 14 days in advance of an AGM. Annual subscriptions are due on the 1st January but can be collected at such other time that is agreed by the Committee.

16. **Non-payment of Subscription -**

No person shall be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society unless their subscription for the year preceding that meeting has been paid in full.

17. **The Society's Funds -**

All subscriptions and other money shall be passed to the Treasurer who shall be responsible for the Society's funds, for keeping accounting records thereof and presenting accounts for audit at the end of the financial year. All monies received by the Treasurer on the Society's behalf shall be paid into the Society's bank account and all cheques drawn on that account shall be signed by any two officers appointed by the Committee. The funds of the Society shall be used solely for furthering the objects of the Society and only in ways sanctioned by the Committee.

18. **Auditor -**

An independent Auditor shall inspect the Accounts and sign them to the effect that they truly reflect the finances of the Society and that the records have been maintained in a satisfactory manner. No committee member shall be eligible to act as Auditor.

19. **Dissolution of the Society -**

- a) The Society may be dissolved only by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of the members voting at a General Meeting of the Society in person or by proxy.
- b) Each family membership is entitled to one vote provided that the annual subscription has been paid by two weeks before the General meeting.
- c) If the resolution of dissolution is passed, the Committee shall forthwith liquidate the affairs of the Society and if there are any surplus assets on realisation, these shall be donated to charities selected by the Committee in post at the time of dissolution.

20. **Other Matters -**

Any matters for which provision is not made in this Constitution shall be dealt with by the Committee at its discretion and shall be reported to the next Annual General Meeting for endorsement or further direction.

Approved at the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on 14 March 2024