

NEWTON PARK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CONSTITUTION & RULES 2019

11 SHOW AWARDS: All Shields Cups, and Trophies awarded by the Society are perpetual and will be competed for annually. Winners holding trophies in their personal possession will be deemed responsible for their safe-keeping and insurance, and must return them to the Show Secretary no later than three weeks prior to a Show or upon request.

12 SOCIETY CLOSURE & WINDING-UP COMMITTEE (WU-C)

- a) The Committee shall monitor the viability of the Society to ensure that the winding-up procedures can be followed if necessary.
- b) The Society will be wound-up if such is the majority vote of paid-up members at either an AGM, or a SGM, incorporating such proposal on the GM agenda.
- c) A 'Winding-Up' Committee (WU-C) shall then be appointed. This shall be the ordinary Committee provided it still has at least three members prepared to act on the WU-C. Otherwise a WU-C of at least three and no more than seven paid-up members should be elected at the GM.
- d) The GM should then propose how it wishes to dispose of the Society's residual assets.
- e) The WU-C will first ensure to the best of their knowledge that all members, Suppliers, Societies, Councils, and any other interested parties are informed; any necessary works are undertaken and completed; and all outstanding debts cleared and creditors paid. The WU-C will then dispose of the residual assets as closely as is feasible in accordance with the GM's wishes.
- f) When all the above duties of the WU-C are complete, its final task is to place a notice of completion in a local newspaper or equivalent medium.

13 RULES Any alteration of these rules shall be approved by a majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting. At least one calendar month's notice prior to a GM must be given in writing to the Secretary of any proposed change. Notice of proposed alteration of these rules must be included in the notice of the GM (see rule 9a).

14 OTHER MATTERS Any matters not provided for in these rules or any interpretations shall be left to the discretion of the Committee or Winding-Up Committee. Where executive action or a quick decision is required then this requires the consent of either two Officers, or one Officer and two Committee Members.

1 The Society shall be called NEWTON PARK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY herein called the Society.

2 OBJECTS

- a) To promote an interest in horticulture.
- b) To provide and maintain a Trading Shed for the sale of goods to members only, for their own personal horticultural use.
- c) To arrange exhibitions and competitions.
- d) To affiliate with recognised National and Local Horticultural Societies.
- e) The Society is committed to equal opportunities for all, irrespective of colour, race, religion or belief, ethnic or national origins, gender, marital status, sexuality, disability, or age.

3 MEMBERSHIP

- a) Every member, except those covered in rule 3h, shall pay an annual subscription of £3, or such sum as may be decided at the AGM.
- b) Membership period is for the Calendar Year of subscription payment.
- c) Any member not renewing their Membership by 30th April of the following year, shall be deemed to have ceased to be a member.
- d) The Committee shall have the power to limit the number of Members of the Society.
- e) The facilities and privileges of the Society shall only be available to the Members.
- f) The Committee shall have the power to suspend, for any such period as deemed necessary, any Member acting in a manner prejudicial to the Society.
- g) Every Member shall produce a current membership card when making any purchase at the Trading Shed.
- h) The Committee shall have the power to award Honorary Life Membership to anyone who, in their view, has performed outstanding service for the Society.

=====END=====

4 PRESIDENT & VICE-PRESIDENTS The Society may have a President and up to six Vice-Presidents elected at an Annual General Meeting. Either office is for life, and entails honorary life-membership. Neither entitles automatic membership of the Committee but an incumbent may seek annual election to the Committee. A Vice-President is deemed to have resigned his Vice-Presidency if he is elected as President.

5 MANAGEMENT The management of the Society shall be in the hands of the Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting (or at an intervening Special General Meeting).

6 THE COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

- a) The Committee shall consist of Officers and Committee Members.
- b) The Officers shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Trading Secretary, and Show Secretary. Other Officers may be appointed as deemed necessary.
- c) There shall be a minimum of 6 Committee Members.
- d) The Committee shall have the power to terminate the appointment of any member of the Committee who fails to attend three consecutive meetings without notifying the Secretary of his inability to attend.
- e) The Committee shall have the power to appoint any member of the Society to fill any vacancy that may occur, and co-opt whomsoever it may consider necessary.
- f) The Committee shall be required to meet at least 6 times a year. A quorum shall consist of at least one quarter of the Officers and Committee Members, subject to a minimum of five.
- g) Any member, unless suspended under rule 3f), may attend a Committee meeting (CM) as a non-voting observer. All CMs, AGMs, SGMs are minuted. Old Minutes are archived at the Civic Centre Library. Recent Minutes are available upon request to the Secretary.
- h) All matters proposed at a Committee meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote. In the event of the votes being equal the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.
- i) The Committee will promote equality of opportunity (see rule 2e) to ensure all members can participate in the activities of the Society.

7 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

- a) The Trading and Financial Year shall end on the 31st December.
- b) The AGM shall be held as soon as possible after the 31st December, but not later than 30th April the following year. A full progress report over the year, together with an independently examined Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet, shall be presented.
- c) 5% of the paid-up membership at the date of the AGM shall form a quorum. In the event of a quorum not being present, the Chairman shall re-convene the AGM at a later date. The existing Committee shall be authorised to continue the management of the Society and, at their discretion, suspend trading until elections can be held.

8 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM)

- a) A SGM may be called at the discretion of the Committee. No quorum shall apply to such a SGM.
- b) A SGM shall be called on receipt of a written request by at least 25 (twenty-five) paid-up members setting forth the objective of the meeting. All such Members should attend. The quorum is 5% of paid-up members.

9 AGM & SGM RULES

- a) At least 14 days notice shall be given of either General Meeting (GM): this notice will include the objectives of the meeting. Any proposal to change the rules, or to wind-up the Society are deemed to be part of the GM's objectives.
- b) The Agenda of a GM shall include its date, time, venue and list its objectives: display of such at the Shed at least 14 days before a GM will suffice to discharge rule 9a).
- c) All matters proposed at either GM shall be decided by a majority of those present, but in the event of the votes being equal, the Chairman of the GM shall have a casting vote in addition to his normal vote.

10 FINANCE The Society will have bank accounts approved by the Committee. The Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman, and Trading Secretary will each have individual authority. The Committee may approve additional authorities. The Treasurer will manage the Society's money and prepare reports for meetings as necessary. Unusual expenditure should first be approved by at least two of the four officers named above. Any unusual expenditure should first be approved by the Committee.