

Constitution of Ashwell Horticultural Society

Name

- 1) The name of the organisation shall be **Ashwell Horticultural Society**

Aims

- 1) The aims of the Society shall be to inspire, educate and entertain in the art and practice of horticulture and conservation, in order to benefit the well-being of residents of Ashwell and surrounding communities or those with a connection to Ashwell; and their environment.
- 2) The constitution shall be published and available to members of the Society on request.

Powers

- 1) To further these aims the committee shall have power to:
 - a) Obtain, collect and receive money or funds by way of contributions, donations, grants and any other lawful method towards the aims of the Society.
 - b) Associate with other bodies and individuals in a common effort to carry out the aims of the Society.
 - c) Do all such lawful things as will further the aims of the Society.

Membership

- 1) Voting membership shall be open to any persons paying the appropriate membership fee.
- 2) There shall be two forms of membership:
 - a) Annual membership.
 - b) Life membership.
- 3) Membership is terminated if:
 - a) A member dies.
 - b) The member resigns by written notice to the Society.
 - c) Any sum due is not paid in full within a period of time of it falling due; that period of time to be defined by the Management Committee.
- 4) The Management Committee shall have the power to approve or reject applications for membership or to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member shall have the right to be heard by the committee before a final decision is made.
- 5) The member must be given at least twenty one days' notice, in writing of the date of the hearing and the reasons why the Management Committee proposes to terminate the membership.

Management

- 1) A Management Committee, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, shall manage the Society.
 - a) There shall be a minimum of five committee members.
 - b) There shall be a maximum of twelve committee members.
- 2) A member of the Management Committee must:
 - a) Be a current member of the Society
 - b) Not be currently disqualified from holding office as a charity trustee or from being a company director.
 - c) Declare any potential conflict of pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in advance of discussing the matter.
- 3) The committee shall consist of a chair, minutes secretary, treasurer and other voting members.
- 4) A President will be appointed by the Management Committee.
 - a) The role of the President is
 - 4.a.i) to represent the Society to the public
 - a.ii) to oversee the appointment of the Chair at the Annual General Meeting
- 5) The President is entitled to attend Management Committee meetings but may not vote.
- 6) The Management Committee shall meet at least two times each year.
- 7) A minimum of five members of the Management Committee being present shall enable the business of the Society to be carried out.
- 8) This excludes those members with a potential conflict of interest for a business matter under discussion.
- 9) A proper record of all transactions and meetings shall be kept.
- 10) Management Committee members shall benefit from indemnity insurance cover purchased at the Society's expense, in accordance with and subject to the conditions in Section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.

General Meetings

- 1) An Annual General Meeting shall be held within 15 months of the date of the adoption of this constitution and each year thereafter.
- 2) Notices of the AGM shall be published three weeks beforehand and a report on the Society's financial position for the previous year will be made available before the meeting.
- 3) A Special General Meeting may be called at any time at the request of the committee, or not fewer than twenty members. A notice explaining the place, date, time and reason shall be sent to all members three weeks beforehand.
- 4) A minimum of twenty members being present shall enable a General Meeting to take place.
- 5) Proposals to change the constitution must be given in writing to the chair at least 28 days before a general meeting and approved by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

Income and Accounts

- 1) The funds of the Society including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Management Committee.
- 2) All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Management Committee who must be unrelated.
- 3) The funds belonging to the Society shall be applied only to further the objects of the Society.
 - a) This includes the purchase of indemnity insurance for members of the Management Committee as specified in the Management Section.
- 4) A current record of all income, funding and expenditure will be kept.
- 5) Accounts shall be submitted to appropriate bodies and/or published as required by those bodies.

Benefits

- 1) No member of the Management Committee or connected person may:
 - a) buy or receive any goods or services from the Society on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public
 - b) sell goods, services or any interest in land to the Society
 - c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the Society
 - d) receive any other financial benefit from the Society
 - 1.d.i) In this case a financial benefit means a benefit, direct or indirect, either money or something that has a monetary value.

Dissolution

- 1) The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a simple two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting.
- 2) If confirmed, the committee shall distribute any assets remaining after the payment of all bills to other charitable Society(s) or organisation(s) having aims similar to the Society or some other charitable purpose(s) as the Society may decide.

	Signature	Name	Date
President			
Chair			
Treasurer			