

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HOBBS ALLOTMENTS AND GARDEN SOCIETY

1. NAME

The Hobbs Allotments and Garden Society – hereafter referred to as The Society.

2. AIMS

To develop a thriving and attractive allotment site that benefits plotholders, visitors, the local community and wildlife.

3. OBJECTIVES

The Society will operate as a non-profit making organisation to further the following objectives:

To liaise with local residents, other garden associations, environmental organisations and community groups in support of the Society's aims.

To seek and administer funding in support of the Society's aims.

To conduct negotiations with the local authority on all matters relating to the site.

To manage the site and seek ongoing improvements in standards and facilities.

To remain a self funding organisation.

To adhere to the lease and its responsibilities to keep the site and its surroundings in order.

To issue agreements, collect signed agreements with allotment plot subscriptions on an annual basis.

To provide plots to residents of Clymping, Ford and Middleton-on-Sea.

4. MEMBERSHIP

Applications for an allotment will be considered by the Committee in a fair and transparent process.

Membership will be open to persons over the age of 18.

Membership may be held in joint names but in any Society ballot only one vote per plot will be permitted.

Members are invited to raise issues about the Society via a suggestions box in the Main Shed.

5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall have the right to terminate membership for reasons such as non payment of subscriptions or repeated failure to abide by the Society's Rules as presented on the Tenancy Agreement.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions shall be paid by the 1st April for the forthcoming 12 months.

7. SOCIETY COMMITTEE

The Society will have a Committee drawn from the membership of the Society and its composition will be ratified each year at an AGM held in January. The Committee may determine the powers and

terms of reference of any Sub Committees that are created The Committee will be responsible for the policy and general management of the affairs of the Society.

The Committee will have a maximum of 10 members each of whom will have a specific role(s). A member(s) of the Society may be proposed and seconded to join the Committee when a vacancy(s) occurs and elected at the AGM. If a vacancy(s) occurs at another time of the year the Committee may co-opt a member(s) to be ratified at the following AGM.

The officers of the Committee will be a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. If vacancies occur among its members the Committee shall have the power to fill those as co-opted members until the next AGM.

Members may attend a committee meeting if they have an issue to raise but may only attend for that specific agenda item. The dates of committee meetings will be published to the membership.

The Committee will meet at least four times a year and minutes will be taken and published to the Committee. Representatives of each of Clymping, Ford and Middleton-on-Sea Parish Councils will be invited to attend these meetings. A quorum for a committee meeting to proceed will be four including two officers of the Society.

Relevant decisions made at committee meetings will be communicated to the membership.

The Committee will manage a website and social media sites on behalf of the members.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

An AGM shall be held each January and six weeks' notice of that meeting shall be given to the membership and an agenda circulated in advance to them. Agenda items will include a report from the Chair, the Secretary and the Treasurer. A quorum for the AGM will be 10 members including the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be held at the discretion of the Committee or a request from at least 10 members of the Society. Voting at an AGM or EGM will be on the basis of one vote per plot and in case of equal voting the Chair shall have the casting vote.

9. FINANCE

The Committee will have the power to determine how monies raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be used.

The Treasurer will keep proper account of the finances of the Society and be one of two signatures for the Society's bank account.

The Treasurer's Report will be circulated to the membership in advance of the AGM.

10. DISSOLUTION

The current lease expires in July 2036 although attempts will be made to extend it. If the Committee decides at any time on the grounds of expense or otherwise that it is necessary to dissolve the Society, it will notify the three parish councils and then give at least 14 days' notice of an EGM to explain the circumstances to the membership.

If the Society is dissolved the management of the site will revert to the Parish Councils of Clymping, Ford and Middleton-on-Sea during the period of the lease and any assets after outstanding debts have been paid will be donated to a charity nominated by the Committee.