

Tilehurst Allotments Society Constitution

21 July 1999

1. Name

The society shall be called the Tilehurst Allotments Society.

2. Objects

The objects of the Society shall be:

- a) To promote allotment gardening in general and in particular at the land let as allotments and owned by the Tilehurst Poor's Lands Charity.
- b) To promote good communication among plot holders and between plot holders and the Trustees of the Tilehurst Poor's Lands Charity.

3. Powers

For the pursuit and fulfilment of the Society's objects its powers shall include the following..

- a) To arrange and undertake improvements to the facilities on the Charity's land which is let as allotments within the remit mutually agreed with the Charity.
- b) To undertake such management tasks of the site as are delegated to it by the Charity.
- c) To arrange such activities as would support and help plot-holders to cultivate and use the plots productively and would secure full letting of the available land.
- d) To raise and use funds for the furtherance of the objects of the Society, but without any power to pledge the personal liability of any Member for the repayment of any sums borrowed.
- e) To arrange activities to promote allotment gardening.

4. Membership

Each of the Charity's registered plot holders is a member. Each member shall have one vote at general meetings of the Society.

5. Subscriptions

There will be no subscription fee.

6. Management

The affairs of the Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Honorary Officers, up to 9 other members of the Society and a nominee of the Tilehurst Poor's Lands Charity Trustees. A quorum shall be half the elected members of the Committee one of whom shall be an officer. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members, to serve until the following Annual General Meeting. In the event of the death or resignation of an officer, the Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint a member of the Committee as a replacement officer to serve until the following Annual General Meeting.

No member of the management Committee shall use the resources or finances of the Society for any use other than authorised Society matters.

7. Officers

The Honorary Officers shall be Chairperson. Secretary and Treasurer.

The Chairperson, or in her/his absence an appointee of the Committee, shall preside at all General meetings and committee meetings of the Society. The decision of the Chairperson of the meeting upon any question of order, voting, adjournment of the meeting, or interpretation of the rules of the Society, shall be final. The Chairperson of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote in the event of equality of votes on any matter under consideration by the society.

8. Elections

The Executive Committee of the Society shall be elected by members annually at the Annual General meeting.

9. Removal from office

Any member of the Committee may be removed at any time by a resolution of the majority of the members present at a General Meeting called for that purpose, which may proceed to fill the vacancy.

10. Finance

The Society's financial year shall end on 1st July.

An independent Financial Examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, whose duties shall be to examine the annual accounts of the Society and report to the members.

The Committee shall authorise its officers to arrange payment and reimbursement of expenditure on behalf of the Society. The funds of the Society will be paid into current, deposit or investment accounts in the name of the society with such banks, building societies or investment institutions as the Committee shall agree. Cheques and other instruments shall be signed by not less than two officers or other signatories authorised by the Committee, provided always that one of the two persons signing cheques or other instruments shall be the Chairperson or Treasurer.

11. Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting of the members of the Society shall be held in September of each year, at which time a Report from the Executive Committee together with the audited accounts and recommendations for any change in the constitution (see paragraph 14) shall be presented to the Society and the Auditor appointed. Notice of such meeting shall be not less than 21 days. Any two members of the Society may nominate any member of the society for election to the Executive Committee or to any office. A quorum shall be fifteen members.

12. Extraordinary General meetings

The Secretary, on direction of the Executive Committee, or on the request of at least ten members of the Society, shall convene a meeting of the Society, notice of which shall be not less than 21 days, such notice to specify the business to be transacted. No other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.

13. Members' Addresses and the Data Protection Act

Members shall notify any change of address to the society secretary, Members' addresses may be held in a computer file. The use of these names will be restricted to that of society business as determined by the Committee.

14. Constitutional Amendments

Amendments to the constitution may be effected by a two-thirds majority of those present at a General Meeting of the Society. Amendments to the constitution shall be proposed by five members of the Society (proposer, seconder and three sponsors) on written notice to the secretary. These proposed amendments must be circulated with the notice of the General Meeting at which they will be considered.

15. Winding-up

In the event of the Society being dissolved, any assets should be donated to an organisation, preferably in Tilehurst or West Reading, with the objective of furthering leisure gardening.