

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

of the

MIDDLEZOY ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

Affiliated to

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd

O'Dell House

Hunters Road

Corby

Northamptonshire

NN17 5JE

RULES AND CONSTITUTION

NAME, OBJECTS AND POWERS

1 Name

The name of the Society shall be Middlezoy Allotment Society.

2 Official Communications

Shall normally be received and signed on behalf of the Society by the Secretary or in the absence of the Secretary by the Chairman or Treasurer.

3 Aim of Society

To assist all members in the pursuit of gardening as a recreation and promote health, education and community fellowship.

4 Objects

- a) To actively cooperate with groups and organisations with a view to increasing the provision of allotments and improving standards and facilities.
- b) To establish a working relationship with Middlezoy Parish Council as landlords with the object of improving facilities, carrying out essential landlord maintenance, preparation of allotment gardens for letting, producing publicity about availability of allotments and early consultation on allotment matters eg proposed site changes, rent levels and reviewing the tenancy agreement which sets out responsibilities of the landlord and the tenant.
- c) To administer any distribution service, communal maintenance machinery and equipment including a seed scheme for members.
- d) To help new gardeners on the site in whatever way is appropriate including providing where possible introduction to a nearby experienced gardener with the view to special help during early months of tenancy.

5 Powers

The Society shall have full power to do all things necessary or expedient for the accomplishment of its objects. No sectarian or party political questions shall be introduced into any meeting and no action of the Society shall be directed towards the propagation of political or religious doctrines, racial or gender discrimination or take part in any political party or religious denominational activities.

USE OF NAME

6 Use of Name

The name shall be mentioned in all business letters of the Society, notices, advertisements, and other official publications of the Society and payments, cheques and orders for money of goods, purporting to be signed by or on behalf of the Society, and in all bills, invoices, receipts and letters of credit of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP

7 Members

The Society shall consist of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners within the Parish of Middlezoy or of such others persons as the committee may admit to membership.

8 Subscriptions

Members will be required to pay such annual subscription as may be determined by the Annual General Meeting as part of the Treasurer's report and be included in the agenda convening the meeting. Members joining part way through a financial year will pay the full subscription for the current financial year.

9 Cessation of Membership

A member shall cease to be a member in the following eventualities:

- a) The member's death.
- b) The member's resignation.
- c) The non payment of the annual subscription thereof for a period of 1 month after has become due.
- d) The expulsion of a member under Rule 10.

10 Expulsion of Members

A General Meeting, may by a vote of two thirds of the members present and entitled to vote, expel any member for conduct detrimental to the Society, provided that a notice specifying the conduct for which it is intended to expel, is sent to the member at the address entered in the register of members at least one calendar month prior to the date of the meeting.

LIST OF MEMBERS

11 List of Members

The Committee of Management shall allocate the keeping of a membership list updated annually by one of its members in which shall be entered the following:

- a) Name, address and telephone number of member.
- b) Date of joining and leaving.
- c) Date of receipt of joining subscription and renewal subscriptions.

Any member may see the entry in respect of themselves recorded in the official list of members and in their own interest must notify any change of address to the Secretary.

12 Plot Allocation

The allocation of individual allotment plots shall be on the following basis:

Priority shall be given to residents within the Parish of Middlezoy. People outside the Parish shall be able to apply for plots on the site, but shall be on a secondary list. They will be eligible to assume tenancy of a plot provided no suitable tenant is available within the Parish of Middlezoy. There shall be a maximum occupancy by residents

outside the Parish of Middlezoy of 20% of the total plots available. There shall be a limit of one full plot per household. The Committee of Management shall have discretion in applying this rule.

GOVERNANCE AND DAY TO DAY MANAGEMENT

13 Governance of the Society shall be vested in the General Meetings.

14 Day to day management delegated to the Committee of Management.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT AND OFFICERS

15 Committee of Management

The Committee of Management must be members of the Society and shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Committee Members of such number as may be determined at a General Meeting.

16 Election

The Committee of Management will be elected from members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting and will take office at the end of the Annual General Meeting at which elected until the end of the next Annual General Meeting.

17 Mid-Term Vacancies

The Committee of Management may fill any vacancy arising during the year. Members appointed will be full voting members of the committee and count towards a quorum.

18 President and Honorary Vice Presidents

The Annual General Meeting may elect a President and/or Honorary Life Presidents as may be required. These offices will be honorary and non voting unless the office holder is a member with normal voting rights.

19 Co option

The Committee of Management may co-opt any member to the Committee to assist in its work. Such co-opted members will be non voting and not count towards a quorum.

20 Powers of Committee

The Committee of Management shall have full power to supervise and manage the day to day work of the Society according to the rules for the purpose of accomplishing its objects.

21 Attendances

Any Committee of Management member who has failed to attend two meetings in any year for any reasons unacceptable to the Committee, will cease to be a Committee member.

22 Removal from Committee

The Committee of Management may remove any officer or committee member from the Committee by a simple majority following an open discussion of the issues which includes the individual members opportunity to put his/her point of view. If required the vote may be a secret vote but the voting numbers will be recorded in the minutes.

MEETINGS OF COMMITTEE MANAGEMENT

23 Frequency of Meetings

The Committee of Management will meet quarterly or more frequently if required by decision of the Committee.

24 Quorum of Committee Meetings

A quorum for meetings of Committee of Management shall be 4 or such other number as may be agreed at a General Meeting.

25 Emergency Actions

The Chairman and/either the Secretary or Treasurer may take any executive emergency actions required where it is not practicable for the business to be decided upon at a regular or special committee meeting. Details of the action will be reported and recorded at the next meeting of the Committee of Management.

26 Conduct of Meetings

At all meetings of the Committee every question shall be decided by a majority of votes and if the votes are equal the Chairman shall have a casting vote in addition to his/her vote as a member. In the absence of the Chairman, an acting Chairman elected at the committee meeting shall preside for that meeting.

FINANCE

27 Financial Records

The Treasurer will keep in date order a record of all income and expenditure related to the Society's financial transaction and all expenditure must be supported by a supplier's receipt or appropriate voucher which shows the date of expenditure, the total amount and the purpose for which payment was made.

28 Banking

The Treasurer shall open a cheque book account with a bank or building society in the name of the Society. Payments by cheque shall require any 2 or 3 authorised signatures – Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

29 Annual Accounts Format

If no other activity is envisaged then a simple Income and Expenditure account will suffice. In the event of other activities needing to be presented separately eg shows, trading, then a separate simple sub account will be introduced with agreement of the Committee of Management.

30 Loans and Borrowing

Loans, borrowing or other credit arrangements will require a specific decision at a Committee of Management meeting or general meeting before any contractual transaction is entered into.

31 Reports to Committee

The Treasurer shall make a verbal report at each meeting on income and expenditure and liabilities up to the Friday before the meeting, and make available at the meeting the most recent bank statement. The Treasurer's verbal financial report shall be recorded in the minutes.

32 Special Expenditure

When special projects are considered they will be costed as far as possible and the Treasurer will advise the Committee on possible ways of funding.

33 Financial Advice

Where the Society requires financial advice outside the normal experience, the treasurer shall seek what professional advice is required and advise the Committee.

34 Presentation of Accounts for Inspection

The Treasurer shall close the annual account on 31st August each year and prepare income and expenditure statements for presentation to the designated Inspector by the end of the following month.

35 Mid Term Vacancy

Where for any reason the Treasurer ceases to hold office the Committee of Management will appoint an Acting Treasurer and ask the designated Inspector to carry out an interim inspection in preparation for the new Treasurer taking up office.

36 Membership Fee

The Treasurer shall advise the Annual General Meeting of any changes required in the membership fee for the current financial year and the Annual General Meeting will consider and decide on the membership fee.

INSPECTOR

37 Appointment of Inspector

The designated Inspector or Inspectors shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the close of the following Annual General Meeting.

38 Qualifications

The Inspector must not be an officer of the Society or a member of the Committee of Management but otherwise any person, member or not who has agreed to carry out the duty may be nominated and appointed year by year at the Annual General Meeting.

39 Mid Term Vacancy

Where for any reason the Inspector(s) ceases to hold office the Committee of Management will appoint a replacement inspector as soon as is practicable and record the action in the minutes.

INSPECTION OF ACCOUNTS

40 Inspection Procedure

The Inspector shall receive the draft accounts, payments, receipts files, bank statements and bank book from the Treasurer by the end of September each year, and will examine them and agree final accounts as an accurate and fair record based on the documents of the Society's financial transactions for the year.

41 Approval of Inspected Accounts

The Annual General Meeting will consider the annual accounts presented by the Treasurer and/or the Inspector. Adoptions of the inspected accounts will be proposed by a member other than the Treasurer and Inspector. The Inspector may raise at the Annual General Meeting any financial matters which require the attention of the Society.

42 Availability of Inspected Accounts

Any member has the right to request a copy of the adopted inspected accounts from the Secretary who will provide a copy within 2 weeks of the request.

GENERAL MEETINGS

43 Annual General Meetings

The Annual General Meetings shall be held at such times as the Committee of Management or a General Meeting shall determine as soon after the inspection of accounts is completed as is convenient.

44 Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting shall be held whenever the Committee of Management thinks expedient or whenever a written requisition for such a meeting by 5 members is delivered to the Secretary. A Special General Meeting shall be convened by the Committee of Management within 4 weeks of receipt of request. Should the Secretary fail to convene the meeting the members signing the requisition may convene such meeting by giving such notice themselves.

45 Notice of General Meeting

At least seven days notice in writing to be given of every General Meeting, stating the business to be transacted at such meeting (see appendix – Sample Annual General Meeting Agenda). The notice shall be sent to every member at the address entered in the list of members and no other business than that stated in the notice shall be transacted at such meeting.

46 Agenda Items

Agenda items must be notified in writing to the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting. See notes appended.

47 Notices of Motions

Motion or motions must be notified in writing to the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting signed by the proposer(s) and seconder(s).

48 Changes in Rules

Changes in rules must be notified in writing to the Secretary 14 days prior to the meeting signed by the proposer(s) and seconder(s).

49 Voting at General Meetings

Every member present at a General Meeting and not otherwise disqualified shall have one vote and where the votes cast in any matter are equal then the Chairman shall have the casting vote in addition to his/her vote as member. Members who are not allotment tenants shall not have the right to vote on questions affecting allotment tenant members only.

50 Presiding Officer at General Meetings

At all General Meetings a chairman elected at the meeting shall preside.

51 Quorum at General Meetings

A quorum at General Meetings shall consist of five members or 25% of membership whichever is the greater.

52 Discussions at Meetings

No political or sectarian issue shall be raised or discussed at General Meetings.

MEMBERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF ALLOTMENT AND LEISURE GARDENERS LTD

53 Membership of NSALG

The adoption of these Rules shall constitute an agreement to apply for:

- a) One fully paid 10p share in the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd and an agreement to pay such annual affiliation fees as maybe prescribed by the rules of the National Society.

54 Arbitration

In case any dispute arises between the Society or any of its officers and any member or persons claiming on behalf of a member or under the Rules, or in case of any complaint against any member, application may be made to the Committee of Management for redress, and should the Committee not bring the parties to agreement, the matter in dispute may be submitted to arbitration.

One arbitrator shall be appointed by each of the parties concerned, and one by the Committee of Management.

The decision of the arbitrators shall be final, and the costs of such arbitration shall be shared between the parties as determined by the arbitrator. In this rule the word 'Member' includes any person aggrieved who has for not more than 6 months ceased to be a member.

DISSOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY

55 Dissolution

The Society may at any time be dissolved by consent of three fourths of the members, testified by their signatures to an instrument of dissolution. Instructions for dissolution will clearly set out what is to happen to any assets and residual cash after payment of expenses. Cash may be lodged with the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners H/Q office and held against any reformation of a successor Society.

COPIES OF RULES

56 Copies of Rules

A copy of the rules of the Society shall be delivered free by the Secretary to every member on joining and the Committee of Management shall provide the Secretary with sufficient copies of the said Rules for this purpose.

AMENDMENTS OF RULES

57 Mode for Amending Rules

The rules may be amended by resolution of a simple majority of those attending a General Meeting called for that purpose.