

Constitution of the Barbican Horticultural Society

Name

1. The name of the Society shall be the 'Barbican Horticultural Society'.

Aims

2. To make the Barbican Estate more attractive to residents, visitors and wildlife, by encouraging and helping residents to grow appropriate plants in window boxes, containers on roof terraces or tubs on the podium.
3. To give Barbican gardeners the opportunity to meet in order to exchange knowledge, plants and other horticultural items and to socialise.

Membership

4. Ordinary membership shall be open to any Barbican resident on payment of the annual subscription.
5. Honorary membership may be granted by the Committee to recognize services rendered to the Society.

Subscriptions

6. The financial year shall be the calendar year, and the annual subscription shall be due on 1st January each year. If the subscription is not paid by 31st March membership shall lapse.
7. Any member joining after October 31st and paying the current annual subscription shall be deemed to be a paid-up member to the end of the following year.
8. The amount of the annual subscription shall be decided by the Committee.

Management of the Society

9. The Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of ordinary members elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall include a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and up to seven other members.
10. Nominations for election to the Committee must be made in writing, signed by the candidate and two other ordinary members, and given to the Secretary at least 48 hours before the Annual General Meeting.
11. Committee members shall be eligible for re-election at the next Annual General Meeting.
12. The Committee may elect from its members such other officers as it may decide.
13. The Committee may co-opt any ordinary member to fill a vacancy until the next Annual General Meeting, such member not having voting powers.
14. The business of the Committee shall be decided by consensus. If a vote is necessary it shall be by simple majority, and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
15. The Committee shall meet as often as required, but not less than four times a year. A quorum shall be four members, including at least one of the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.
16. The Secretary shall take minutes at each meeting. In the Secretary's absence the Chairman may appoint another member to take the minutes.
17. If a Committee member is absent from three meetings consecutively, the Committee may suspend that member from the Committee.

Powers of the Committee

18. To meet the reasonable expenses of running the Society, subject to Clause 24.
19. To engage in any lawful activity in furtherance of the Aims of the Society.
20. To arrange events or functions for members, charging fees as appropriate.
21. To appoint sub-committees and define their terms of reference.
22. To organise fundraising activities in support of charities with horticultural or related aims.
23. To bestow Honorary membership as in Clause 5, or to withdraw such membership.

Finance

24. The Society's funds shall be used to further the aims of the Society and for no other purpose.
25. The Treasurer shall keep proper account of the Society's finances, present a financial report to each committee meeting and maintain a bank account in the name of the Society.
26. The accounts shall be made up to 31st December each year, and an Income and Expenditure Account and a Balance Sheet shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
27. The Treasurer shall allow any ordinary member to inspect the accounts, subject to reasonable notice being given.

Annual General Meetings

28. An Annual General Meeting shall be held by 30th April each year for the purpose of:
 - a. receiving the annual report of the Committee and financial statements.
 - b. electing or re-electing the Committee members.
 - c. conducting any other business for which appropriate notice has been given.
29. Members shall be given at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting, and the quorum shall be 15 members. Voting shall be by simple majority.

Special General Meetings

30. At the request of the Committee or on receipt of a written request signed by at least 12 members specifying the reason, the Committee shall convene a Special General Meeting and shall give members at least 21 days' notice. The notice shall specify the business to be transacted. The quorum shall be 15 members. Voting shall be by simple majority.

Complaints and suggestions

31. All complaints or suggestions on matters regarding the Society shall be made to the Secretary in writing. The Committee must then consider the complaint or suggestion and decide what is the appropriate action to take.

Indemnity

32. No member formally authorised to act on behalf of the Society shall be made personally liable to the Society, by reason of any act done or omission made in good faith, or by reason of any other matter or thing, except fraud or wilful wrongdoing on the part of the person whom it is sought to make liable.

Dissolution

33. The Society may be dissolved only at a general meeting of the Society. To be effective, a proposal to dissolve must receive the votes of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.
34. If the Society is dissolved, all assets (after any liabilities have been discharged) shall be donated to another society with aims similar to those of the Society or to an appropriate charity, as the members may decide.

Alteration of Constitution

35. This Constitution may be amended only at a general meeting of the Society, provided that notice of any proposed amendments shall have been sent to all members at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. To be effective, any amendments must receive the votes of at least two-thirds of those present and voting.

Revised Constitution adopted at the Annual General Meeting February 2016