

# **EDGWORTH & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

## **CONSTITUTION Revised – 17<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

### **1. TITLE**

The Society shall be administered and managed under the title of:-  
THE EDGWORTH AND DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) Full membership of the Society shall be open to any person aged 18 years or over without regards to disability, political or religious affiliation, race, sex or sexual orientation, on payment of an Annual Subscription, the amount of which shall be decided by and which may, from time to time, be varied by the Committee. Subscriptions to cover membership over a calendar year, shall be due on 1st January.
- (b) Junior Membership shall be open to those under 18 years of age without regards to disability, political or religious affiliation, race, sex or sexual orientation on payment of an Annual Subscription of a reduced amount of that determined under 2(a) above. They will enjoy full rights of membership equivalent to those of full members.
- (c) Any person whose Annual Subscription is unpaid at the expiration of 3 months from the due date shall be deemed to have ceased membership and have lost whatever rights or benefits are available to members.
- (d) The Committee shall have the right to cancel membership of any person contravening the rules and regulations of the Society.

### **3. OBJECTS**

The objects of the Society shall be:-

- (a) To foster amongst its members an active interest in horticulture, gardening, flower and vegetable growing etc. and similar cultivation.
- (b) To arrange and organise from time to time, and at periods which may seem appropriate, shows, which, at the discretion of the committee, may be open or confined to members, for the exhibition of flowers, vegetables and other garden or allotment produce, as well as other items of household or personal production as may seem desirable. The Committee shall decide the nature, scope and content of each show.

- (c) To arrange for the dissemination amongst the members such literature and information on subjects within its objects as may be desirable.
- (d) The Committee may at its discretion, also organise and arrange:-
  - (i) Special garden or allotment competitions.
  - (ii) The sale or hire of seed, plants, fertilisers and similar horticultural products or gardening implements.
  - (iii) Such other functions, lectures etc. as may seem desirable for the benefit of the Society.

#### **4 COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS**

- (a) The affairs of the Society shall be administered and conducted by a committee not exceeding nine members, together with a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all of whom shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) The Committee and Officers may remain in office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy in an Officership may be filled by the Committee from amongst their number. A Committee vacancy may also be filled at the invitation of the Committee.
- (c) The Committee may, from amongst its numbers, appoint such officers as may be necessary.
- (d) The Committee shall have the right to co-opt up to an additional three members whose membership shall commence at the date of appointment and cease at the termination of the next Annual General Meeting, but they, or others may again be co-opted by the next Committee.
- (e) The attendance of six officers and/or members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum in order to legitimately transact ordinary business on behalf of the Committee.
- (f) The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer may not serve for more than three consecutive years, unless there are no other nominations and they are willing to continue until the next AGM.

#### **5. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The accounting year of the Society shall be from 1st October to 30th September and this shall be followed by an Annual General Meeting to be held in the following October or November, at a date to be announced 21 days in advance. All members fully paid up at the date of the Annual General Meeting shall be entitled to attend and vote. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be to receive reports from its officers, to elect the Committee and to appropriate Officers and Auditor(s) for the ensuing year, and to transact such other business as the Committee and the Chairman may deem desirable.

## **6. AFFILIATION**

The Society may affiliate and pay the necessary fees to such National and Local Horticultural or Allotment Societies as the Committee may deem desirable.

## **7. FUNDS AND PROPERTY**

- (a) A Minute book and books of account shall be provided and kept by the Committee.
- (b) Funds shall be banked as decided by the Committee and balances drawn and handled by such person or persons as the Committee direct. The Committee shall authorize in writing to the Treasurer and up to two other members of the Committee or Officers to make payments by cheque or e-banking on behalf of the Society. These will normally include the Chairman and Vice-Treasurer. All cheques are signed by any one of the authorized signatories.
- (c) Payments made by cheque or e-banking will be agreed in writing (e.g. email) by at least two other members of the Committee or Officers, normally including the Chairman or Vice-chairman. Written permission should be granted for any signatory to make regular payments and other payments up to a set level. These documents will form part of the annual audit of the accounts.
- (d) An annual audited Statement of Account shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- (e) The property of all funds and articles, either of cups or trophies (which shall be insured against loss) and other kinds of materials shall vest in the Committee.
- (f) In the event of the termination of the Society any net balance of funds after disposal of property and payment of any debts due shall be paid and handed over to such Charitable Organisation or Organisations having objects similar to the Society as the Committee and its Officers shall determine, and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision, then to some other charitable purpose.

## **8. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION.**

Alterations to this Constitution shall be made only by a majority vote of members present at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.

## **9. DISSOLUTION**

The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a special General Meeting convened for the purpose, of which 28 days notice shall be given.