

ALDERMASTON AND WASING HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

DRAFT CONSTITUTION

- 1- The Produce Show was first held in 1943 and the original Constitution has been lost. The Aldermaston and Wasing Horticultural Society is affiliated with the Royal Horticultural Society, numbered 10563842 and its aim is to continue with the long-standing tradition of an annual Produce Show, promoting horticultural, artistic, culinary and craft skills and providing entertainment to the public.
2. Membership of the Society is open to anyone interested in joining and members can be co-opted by majority vote of the committee at any meeting during the year; all committee members are then subject to election by majority vote of the existing committee at the Annual General Meeting.
3. Schedules must comply with the RHS Horticultural Show Handbook where appropriate
- 4- OFFICERS are elected as follows, with no limit to their term of office:
 - a- President and Vice President, elected every 2 years at the AGM;
 - b-Chairman and Vice Chairman, elected annually at the first meeting after the AGM;
 - c- Secretary and Treasurer elected annually at the AGM.No one person can hold more than one of the above offices simultaneously.
- 5- The Committee may also appoint distinguished individuals as Life Members.
6. The Society's financial year ends on 31st October and the accounts must be audited by an independent person not on the committee. An Annual General Meeting shall be held in January of each year which the public are entitled to attend and at which the financial statements must be presented and approved. The auditor shall be elected at an ordinary meeting during the year. The President or in his absence the Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall chair the AGM.
7. The choice as to which main charity or charities the Society will support in the coming year shall be made by committee members' majority vote at the AGM. Other charities as voted by the committee may be supported during the year but all such decisions must be endorsed at the following AGM.
8. Meetings will be held as required, giving a minimum of 2 weeks' notice except in special circumstances. A minimum of 60% is required for a quorum and no decision is valid unless 60% of members have voted. An agenda will be distributed in advance and members must notify the Chairman or Secretary of any other issues they wish to raise at least 24 hours before the meeting.
9. The Committee can convene an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time and must do so within 28 days of receiving a written request from at least 3 members. Written notice must be sent to all members not less than 14 days before such a meeting, stating the date, time, venue and purpose and only the business specified in that notice may be transacted at that meeting. The President or in his absence the Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall chair any such EGM.
10. All decisions are to be made by a simple majority vote, normally by a show of hands; all members except the President and Life Members have a vote and the Chairman has an additional, casting vote in case of a tie. Members can also be removed from the Committee by such majority vote.
11. Absentee voting where appropriate is valid through the good offices of a neutral third party.
- 12- The Committee may appoint sub-committees (minimum 2 persons) as required for specific tasks.
13. Minutes of every meeting shall be circulated within a maximum of 8 days and ratified at the next meeting. Once approved, the decisions as detailed in the minutes shall be binding.
14. The Society's funds shall all be passed to the Treasurer and accounted for by him. All cheques must be signed by any two of the following: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

15. Winding up the Society can only be decided upon at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting and then only by a majority vote of at least 60% of the current committee members. The committee shall then appoint between 3 and 7 members to oversee the disposal of the Society's assets.

Ratified by the Committee on 12.3.2008

Peter Oldridge

Show Chairman