

SALE HORTICULTURAL & ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION 2025

1. NAME

The society shall be called The Sale Horticultural & Allotment Society (SHAS)

2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the society shall be to promote amateur horticulture in the community by all means available with reference to the home and allotment garden, to encourage eco-friendly techniques and to promote social activities amongst its members whenever possible.

3. POWERS

The society will operate as a non-profit making organisation to further the following objectives.

- a) Assist or affiliate with other charitable or community associations
- b) Raise funds and receive contributions.
- c) Buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objectives and to maintain and equip it for use.
- d) Lease or dispose of all or part of the property of the society subject to any consents required by law.
- e) Do all such lawful things that shall further the objects of the society.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership shall be open to all Trafford residents over the age of 16 years subject to approval by the Executive Committee. Approval of a membership application from residents outside the Trafford area will be at the discretion of the Executive Committee.
- b) The Executive committee may recommend to the AGM that life membership be conferred on a member it considers worthy of the honour, and such a member shall retain full membership rights.

5. VOTING RIGHTS

- a) At the time of the Annual General Meeting only fully paid up, concessionary and life members shall be eligible to hold office, to be elected to the executive committee and to vote, if present in person or via virtual online meeting organised by the committee
- b) The Chairperson, or, in their absence, the member duly elected to act as chairperson at any full executive committee meeting or at any general meeting shall have only a casting vote.

6. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) The annual membership subscription rates shall include concessionary rates and be ratified at an AGM. They shall be due for renewal on January 1st.
- b) If a renewal subscription is not paid within one year, then that membership will lapse and must be re-applied for as in 'Membership 4' above.

7. PLOT RENTAL

- a) The executive committee will determine plot rents from time to time, assessing them in relation to the size of the plot and in relation to the rent imposed by Trafford Borough Council.
- b) All plot holders must be current members of SHAS and will pay rent in addition to their subscription. Such rents are due for payment on January 1st.

- c) If the rent is not paid within 60 days of its due date, the tenancy will lapse, and the plot made available for re-letting.
- d) A member will not be considered for the tenancy of more than one full plot or two half plots when there are people on a waiting list.

8. BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES

- a) No member shall purport to speak for the society without the approval of the Executive committee.
- b) Any member whose conduct is deemed by the Executive committee to be contrary to the interests of the society shall be warned in writing that his/her conduct may result in cancellation of his/her membership and withdrawal of his/her right to rent an allotment plot, forfeiting any monies paid for either. The committee reserves the right to cancel such membership where warnings are not heeded.
- c) A member aggrieved by cancellation of membership shall first write to the executive committee stating his/her objections. Within four weeks of receipt of the letter, the secretary shall call a full Executive committee meeting to which the member will be invited and to which the member may bring a personal representative. The member shall be enabled, by a simple majority, on a motion brought by him/her, to rescind the Executive committee's decision and have it expunged from the records.
- d) Failure of a member to maintain a plot according to the tenancy agreement will invoke the eviction procedure.
- e) A plot holder who fails to pay their membership to SHAS will be in breach of the tenancy agreement and will be evicted from their plot. Should they wish to be considered for reinstatement to the society, they must reapply as in 'Membership 4' above. If they wish to be considered for a plot, they must reapply and be placed in turn on the waiting list.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall normally be held during March but no later than the end of April each year.
- b) Notice of agenda, time and place shall be given to members by newsletter or other means at least 14 days before the meeting.
- c) A financial statement will be afforded to any member prior to the Annual General Meeting upon receipt of a specific request to the Secretary within 48 hours of the meeting.

The Business of the AGM shall be:

- d) To receive reports from the officers including a financial statement;
- e) To elect an Executive committee by simple majority of paid up members voting to serve the membership for the forthcoming year. The Executive committee shall usually consist of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Allotment Secretary, and up to five additional members.
- f) To ratify the co-option of any member co-opted on to the committee during the year;
- g) To confirm or otherwise amend the subscription.
- h) To deal with any motion duly proposed and seconded by members, which shall be in writing and received by the Secretary no later than February 1st.
- i) To deal with any matter arising duly proposed and seconded during the AGM.

10. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) The Executive committee may call an Extraordinary General Meeting by an ordinary resolution.
- b) The Secretary shall convene an Extraordinary General Meeting on receipt of a resolution by 15 members or 20 per cent of the membership whichever is the lower, stating the business to be transacted.

11. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- a) The executive committee shall consist of its principal officers and no more than five additional members.
- b) In the continued and ongoing absence of one of its elected officers the committee is empowered to elect a substitute to the end of the year.
- c) Meetings shall be held as often as required, but at least once every three months.

12. QUORUMS

- a) A quorum at an Annual General Meeting, in person or via remotely delivered meeting, shall be 15 members or 10 per cent of the fully paid-up membership whichever is the lower.
- b) A quorum at an Executive meeting shall be 4 members.
- c) A quorum at an Extraordinary General meeting shall be 15 members or 10 per cent of the fully paid-up membership.

13. FINANCE

- a) The financial year shall run from January 1st.
- b) Once a year the accounts shall be made available, independently examined, and presented to the membership at the AGM.
- c) All monies raised by or on behalf of the society, shall, after all due expenses have been met, be used to further the purposes of the society.

14. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution shall endure unless and until amended at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting on a motion of which all members shall have had two weeks' notice in writing and which shall receive affirmation by two thirds of those voting.

15. STANDING ORDERS

The Executive committee shall have the power to adopt and issue orders for conducting business. Such standing orders shall come into operation immediately, if they shall be subject to review by the Annual General Meeting and shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of the constitution, which shall take precedence in the case of a dispute.

16. DISBANDING THE SOCIETY

The disbanding of the society shall be the subject of a resolution of an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose when paid up members have been informed in writing. There must be a two-thirds majority of paid-up members present and voting. In the event of the resolution being carried, all properties of the society shall be sold. After discharge of all liabilities, any residual monies shall be donated locally for the express purpose of furthering horticultural interests.

This constitution was approved and adopted by members of the SALE HORTICULTURAL & ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

On the _____

Signed: _____ Chairperson

_____ Secretary

_____ Treasurer