



Storrington Allotment Growers Association

Constitution

Adopted on the 20th February 2009

A The name of the Association is Storrington Allotment Growers Association

B Administration

Subject to the matters set out below, the Association shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Committee as constituted by clause F of this constitution ['the Committee']

C Objects

The Association's objects are:

- 1 to make the allotments safe, peaceful and enjoyable
- 2 to work with nature not fight against it
- 3 to support tenants and their growing interests
- 4 to maintain plots in good condition
- 5 to encourage members to observe conditions of tenancy
- 6 to retain the full area of Allotments as such
- 7 to support the principle of allotments and conduct negotiations with the local authority and private landlords for the use of gardening land.
- 8 to take action to protect members against damage, trespass and theft
- 9 to obtain a supply of seeds, fertilizers, tools and other horticultural equipment on behalf of members
- 10 arrange lecture, film shows, demonstrations, competitions and other social events
- 11 Co-operating with other gardening associations and environmental organisations in matters of mutual interest

D Powers

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- [1] power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions providing that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- [2] power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

E Membership

- [1] Membership of the association shall consist of such persons whose applications for membership are approved by the Committee. Approval should not be unjustifiably refused and anyone so refused shall have the right of appeal to the Parish Council
- [2] Only allotment holders are entitled to vote on allotment business.
- [3] Every allotment holder shall have one vote.
- [4] Membership ceases when the tenancy is terminated.
- [5] In the event of a member being in dispute with a notice of eviction they have the right to call a



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meeting of all members of the association to put the matter to a general vote. This will not affect their right of appeal to the Parish Council for independent arbitration.

[6] No allotment holder may hold more than one plot. If no waiting list exists a plot holder may volunteer to manage another plot on a temporary basis subject to the normal payment of rent until the plot is required.

F Committee

[1] The Committee shall consist of up to 10 members elected at the annual general meeting. The officers of the association shall be a Chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and a warden. They shall be elected at each annual general meeting. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. He shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

[3] Up to 6 additional members may be co-opted onto the Committee

[4] The proceedings shall not be invalidated by any vacancy or failure to appoint.

[5] All allotments sites within the management of the committee will be proportionally represented on the committee were possible.

G Meetings and Proceedings of the Committee

[1] The Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings each year. A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Committee upon not less than four days' notice to other members of the committee of matters to be discussed.

[2] The Chairman shall conduct meetings of the Committee or a convenor to be chosen from the Committee before any other business is transacted.

[3] There shall be a quorum of at least four members of the Committee at meetings.

[4] Every matter shall be determined in the first instance by consensus of the members of the Committee present (each member having familiarised themselves with the principles of consensus decision making). Only after reasonable attempts have been made will the matter be resolved by a majority vote; in the case of an even vote the convenor shall have the casting vote.

[5] The Committee shall keep minutes of its proceedings at meetings and make them available to all members upon request. A copy will be displayed on each site for one week following the date of the meeting.

[6] The Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

[7] The Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees for the purposes of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Committee would be more conveniently carried out by a sub-committee, providing that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the Committee; the purpose of any sub-committee, and any expenses it is likely to incur, must be agreed beforehand.

H Accounts

The committee shall open a bank account in the name of the association and all monies received from any source on behalf of the association shall be paid into such account. Two out of three signatories shall sign cheques. All financial records regarding income from rent and expenditure will be made available to the monitoring officer of the Parish Council within a reasonable period of



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notice.

I Annual Report

The committee shall prepare an annual report for its members.

J Annual General Meeting

[1] There shall be an annual general meeting of the Association each spring.

[2] Every annual general meeting shall be called by the Committee. The secretary shall give at least 28 days' notice of the meeting to members of the Association. All members of the Association are entitled to attend.

[3] The Committee shall present to each annual general meeting the report and accounts for the preceding year.

[4] Nominations for election to the Committee must be made by members of the Association; should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by vote at the annual general meeting.

K Special General Meetings

The Committee may call a special general meeting of the association at any time. If at least ten members of the Association request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered, the secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days notice must be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed.

L Procedure at General Meetings

[1] The secretary or other person specially appointed by the Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every general meeting; a copy to be displayed as soon as practicable thereafter.

[2] There shall be a quorum of at least ten members of the Association present at any general meeting.

M Alterations to this Constitution

This constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members of the Association present at a general meeting. The notice of the general meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed. The Parish Council must be notified of any changes within 30 days of instigation.

N Dissolution

If the Committee decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a meeting of members of the Association of which not less than 28 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those members present the Committee shall have power to realise any assets held on behalf of the Association. All existing plot tenancies will revert to the Parish Council and all monies collected in rent for those tenants in the current billing period. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given to an Association with similar aims or to a philanthropic or charitable purpose.

This constitution was adopted on the date mentioned above by the persons whose signatures appear



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at the bottom of this document. All references to the Committee refer to the persons listed below until the first annual general meeting.

Chairman	Phillip Mitchell
Treasurer/Secretary	Kay White
Security	Ron Barber
Additional Members	Charles Grayson
	Gill Ion
	John Duggan
	Tess Willis (aka Therese Lees)
	Sarah Beard