

Sedlescombe & District Garden Society

CONSTITUTION (revised Nov. 2014)

1. Definition

The Society shall be known as the Sedlescombe and District Garden Society (SDGS) and throughout this document shall be referred to as 'the Society'. The Society shall be affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS)

2. Aims and Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be to promote amongst members an interest in all aspects of gardening and the gardening environment and shall seek to maintain the rich diversity of garden plants and to increase and widen the general appeal of gardening and plant culture within the local community through:

- a) The organisation of show competitions,
- b) Regular meetings and lectures including social events,
- c) visits to places of gardening interest,
- d) Co-operating with other horticultural and gardening societies in matters of mutual interest,
- e) Its endeavours to obtain for members special discount terms from traders in the purchase of plants and garden requisites.

3 Equal Opportunities

The Society shall be non-party political and non-sectarian. The Society is committed to equality of opportunity for all people. It will therefore:

- a) Treat no person less favourably because of his/her sex, marital status, race, colour, creed, sexual orientation or disability
- b) Apply this to all members of the Society, to volunteers, contractors, members of the community and any third party with which the Society is associated.

4 Insurance

The Society shall take out Public Liability and Personal Accident Insurance to cover its meetings, activities, Officers and Committee.

5. Membership & Subscriptions

Membership of the society shall be open to all persons and groups within the Sedlescombe District whose applications for membership are approved by the Committee and upon payment of the current subscription fee.

Any change in the annual subscription rate shall be decided with the agreement of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Subscriptions shall be due on 1st January each year. Payment of the subscription shall be considered as acceptance of the Rules of the Society. In the event of a member joining the Society after 1st October, the subscription shall cover the period up to 31st December in the following year. An applicant for membership shall not be entitled to any privilege of the Society until the subscription is paid and a member omitting to renew their subscription for a period of three calendar months from 1st January shall be deemed to have resigned from the Society.

6. Committee

Management of the Society shall be in the hands of a Committee of up to 14 members of the Society, including the Executive Officers, viz. Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Show Secretary and Membership Secretary. The Chairman and Committee shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting. The remaining Executive Officer positions will be appointed by the elected committee. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members of the Society if required. All Executive Officers, Committee members and co-opted members shall retire at the following AGM when they will be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary and the required quorum shall be six, three of whom shall be Officers

7. Finances

The management of the society's finances shall be carried out by the Treasurer and all monies received by the Society shall be paid into a bank or savings account opened in the name of the

Society and all cheques drawn on these accounts shall bear the signatures of the Treasurer and either the Chairperson, the Secretary, Vice-Chairperson or one other nominated Committee Member. The financial year shall commence on 1st October each year. One Independent Examiner, who is not a member of the committee, shall be appointed and elected annually at the AGM to examine and approve the accounts and books of the Society.

8. The Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall take place in November and the Chair taken by the Chairperson or in his/her absence by the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee. The Chairperson shall present a report on the year's activities and the Treasurer shall present a financial report and an approved statement of accounts for the year ending 30th September. The Committee shall submit recommendations for the appointment of a President on the position becoming vacant and of Honorary Members. An Honorary Member is one whose service to the Society is deemed to be worthy of recognition. Notice of the AGM together with the agenda shall be sent to all members at least 14 days before the date fixed for the AGM. Nominations to fill the posts of retiring Officers and Committee Members shall be asked for in this notice. Any member of the Society shall be entitled to make nominations with the concurrence of the nominees. In the event of more nominations being received than there are vacancies to be filled, the election shall be by ballot by those members present at the AGM. A quorum at the AGM shall be 25.

9. Extraordinary General Meetings

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be demanded by any three members of the Committee or by any 10 members of the Society. A request for such a meeting must be sent to the Secretary in writing stating the special business for which the meeting is to be convened and no other business shall be transacted at this Extraordinary General Meeting.

10. Alteration of the Rules.

No rule shall be repealed or altered and no rule shall be made except by the agreement of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting.

11. Dissolution

The Society may be dissolved by a resolution presented at an Extraordinary General Meeting called for this purpose. The resolution must have the assent of two thirds of those present and voting. Such resolutions may give instructions for the disposal of any assets remaining after satisfying any outstanding debts and liabilities. These assets shall not be distributed among the members of the Society but will be given to the Sedlescombe Societies for the benefit of the village or any other charitable cause as may be agreed at the EGM.