

Constitution of the Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society

1. Name and Status

The Society shall be known as the Bucklebury and Marlston Horticultural Society (hereinafter referred to as "the Society"). The Society is un-incorporated and is not a limited company or charity.

2. Objects

The objects of the Society are to sustain and grow a vibrant, inclusive gardening society that balances tradition with innovation, strengthens community connections, and encourages participation at all levels by:

- a) Holding regular meetings, lectures, and demonstrations open to all,
- b) Organising visits to gardens and places of horticultural interest,
- c) Holding Shows, for which the Show Regulations will be published and updated as necessary,
- d) Arranging for the purchase of seeds, bulbs, plants and tools for members,
- e) Any other activities deemed beneficial to the horticultural interest of members.

3. Membership

- a) Membership is open to all adults interested in horticulture. All ages and skill levels are welcome.
- b) Annual subscription fees shall be set by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- c) Membership is valid upon payment of a subscription and runs from 1st January to 31st December annually.
- d) Any person making the appropriate subscription to the Society will be considered a member of the Society and entitled to vote at meetings.
- e) The Committee reserves the right to terminate membership for a valid reason, providing the individual has the right to be heard by the Committee before a final decision is made.

4. Committee

- a) The Society shall be managed by a Committee consisting of a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Show Secretary and Membership Secretary (the "Officers") who are paid up members of the Society and up to 8 ordinary members, all elected at the AGM.
- b) A quorum for Committee meetings shall be 5 members.
- c) The Committee may co-opt additional members to fill vacancies or to serve specific roles. Co-opted members hold office until the next AGM.
- d) A Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the Committee.
- e) The Committee shall have the power to create sub-committees for specific tasks.
- f) The Officers shall be ex-officio members of any sub-committee.

5. Finance

- a) The financial year shall run from 1st October to 30th September.
- b) All funds belonging to the Society shall be deposited in bank accounts in the name of the Society.
- c) All cheques or electronic bank expenditures shall be authorised by two designated officers.
- d) The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts and present an annual financial statement, approved by the Committee, to the AGM.
- e) The accounts shall be reviewed by an person appointed at the AGM who is not a member of the Committee.

6. General Meetings

- a) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held once per calendar year to receive the annual report and financial statement, and to elect officers.
- b) A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called by the Committee or by a written request from 10% of the membership.
- c) Resolutions must be in writing and received by the Secretary of the Society for inclusion on the agenda at least 28 days before a General Meeting.
- d) At least 14 days notice of a General Meeting shall be given to members.
- e) Voting on Resolutions shall be by a show of hands and shall be passed by a simple majority with the Chairman having a casting vote.

7. Changes to the Constitution

- a) Amendments to this constitution may only be made at an AGM or SGM.
- b) Any proposal for change must be submitted to the Secretary at least 28 days before the meeting.
- c) Amendments require a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

8. Dissolution

- a) The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of members present at an SGM called for this purpose.
- b) In the event of dissolution, any assets (including Cups and Shields) remaining after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall not be paid to or distributed among members, but shall be given to another horticultural group or local non-profit organisation with similar aims, as determined by the final Committee.

Adoption of the Constitution

This constitution was adopted by the members of the Society on:

Date: 23rd October 2026

Signed (Chair): Signed electronically by: Name: John Smart

Signed (Secretary): Signed electronically by: Name: Derek Matthews