

TATTON GARDEN SOCIETY CONSTITUTION AND RULES

Adopted at the first Annual General Meeting on 28 March 1963. Amended 26 March 1969, Further amended 2 December 1970, 15 March 1977, 18 March 1982, 19 March 1987, 17 March 1992, 20 March 2001, 11 April 2017, 22 April 2020

NAME AND OBJECTIVES

1. The name of the Society shall be Tatton Garden Society (henceforth known as the Society) and its objects shall be the promotion of Science and Research in Horticulture and Botany for the benefit of the Public. In furtherance of the above the Society shall have the following powers:-

(a) To maintain and cultivate The Lovell Quinta Arboretum and any other additional land which may from time to time become available in Cheshire, by arrangement with the Cheshire East Council and the National Trust, as a Botanical Garden for the growth and propagation of trees, shrubs and plants, and also to co-operate with and assist the Cheshire East Council and the National Trust as they may require in all matters.

(b) To layout, maintain and cultivate, either independently or in association with anyone or more individual or any public, charitable or educational bodies a garden or gardens at any place or places within the County of Cheshire or neighbouring areas.

(c) To carry out tests and trials on trees, shrubs and plants particularly having regard to suitability to local climatic and soil conditions.

(d) To provide facilities in the form of advice, demonstration, discussion and lectures on all aspects of gardening and to co-operate with other gardening societies and the Nursery Trade.

(e) To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Management Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities.

(f) To undertake any other activity consistent with the overall aims and objectives of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

2. Membership shall be open to any member of the public and any organisation approved by the Management Committee on signing a form of application giving such particulars as shall be required by the Committee with an undertaking to be bound by these Rules. The Committee may at their discretion, appoint Honorary Members, not exceeding six in number.

3. The annual rates of membership subscriptions shall be such amounts as shall be fixed from time to time by the Management Committee.

4. Any member intending to withdraw from the Society shall signify his/her intention to do so in writing addressed to the Secretary before 1st December in any year and otherwise shall be liable to pay the subscription for the ensuing year. Any ordinary member whose subscription is not paid within two months of falling due shall upon a resolution of the Committee to that effect cease to be a member.

OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

5. The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of the Officers and not more than twelve other members. The Officers shall be a President and not more than two Vice-Presidents who may be either honorary members or ordinary members of Tatton Garden Society, a Chair of the Tatton Garden Society and a Vice Chair, an Honorary Treasurer, and an Honorary Secretary. The Management Committee shall also include at least one representative from each of the Outside Activities Committee, Lovell Quinta Arboretum Management Committee and the Lectures sub-group who shall be Ordinary Members of the Management Committee. A member of the Management Committee may represent more than one of these committees.

6. Officers and members of the Committee shall be elected to serve for a period of three years at the expiry of which they shall retire but shall be eligible for re-election. The Committee shall be entitled to co-opt to fill casual vacancies arising during the year until the following Annual General Meeting when the co-opted member of the Committee shall be eligible for election.

The Committee shall also be empowered to appoint an Administrator of the Tatton Garden Society and appoint a Curator of the Lovell Quinta Arboretum, who may or may not be members of the Society, upon such terms as to remuneration, length of engagement and otherwise as the Committee shall think fit.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

7. A statement of the income and expenditure and the assets and liabilities of the Society to the end of December in each year shall be prepared and a summary thereof duly audited and sent to each member with the notice of the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. An Annual General Meeting of all members of the Society shall be held in March, April or May of every year. The Secretary shall cause written or electronic email notice of such Meeting to be sent at least two weeks in advance to each member at his registered address and shall enclose with such notice a form of nomination for Officers and Committee, the financial statement in accordance with the previous Rule and a copy of any resolutions to be moved at such Meeting of which prior written notice shall have been received from any member.

9. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (a) to receive the report and financial statement of the Management Committee
- (b) to elect officers
- (c) to elect members for vacancies on the Management Committee occasioned by the operation of Rule 6.
- (d) to elect an auditor or auditors
- (e) to determine any matter of which prior notice shall have been given in accordance with Rule 8
- (f) to discuss any subject of horticultural interest or other business connected with the work of the Society which the Chairman in his absolute discretion shall allow to be raised without prior notice.

QUORUM AND VOTING

10. At General Meetings of the Society ten members, and at Management Committee Meetings five members shall constitute a quorum.

11. When at any Annual General Meeting the number of candidates for Officers and Committee shall exceed the number of vacancies an election shall be conducted by ballot of the members present in

such a manner as the Chairman or acting Chairman shall direct. All other matters shall be decided by a show of hands on a resolution being put to the vote. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on an election by ballot or on a resolution by a show of hands, the Chairman or acting Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. There shall be no poll and no proxy voting and the declaration by the Chairman or acting Chairman as to the result of an election or as to a resolution being carried or defeated shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of votes recorded.

GUESTS

12. Every member shall be allowed to introduce one or two guests to the premises, meetings and other activities of the society at a charge determined by the Management Committee if accommodation allows, provided that no member shall introduce the same person more than once in any month and the Management Committee shall be empowered to make such regulations as it shall from time to time think fit limiting the introduction of Guests.

BEHAVIOUR

13. The Management Committee shall have power at its absolute discretion to exclude or expel any member or guest behaving in an abusive, insulting or inappropriate manner including bringing the Society into disrepute. In the event of dispute any such decision on exclusion can be reviewed by the society membership at the next scheduled General Meeting at the request of the excluded party.

ALTERATION TO RULES

14. No alteration or addition shall be made to these Rules except at an annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting of which at least two week's prior notice shall have been sent to each member at his registered address specifying the alteration or addition proposed. No change of rules will, however, be permitted which will render the Society non-charitable.

15. In the event of the Society being disbanded or ceasing to fulfill its objectives, any surplus funds or assets remaining after all its liabilities have been discharged shall be distributed to registered gardening charities as decided by the membership in General Meeting and no part of its funds shall be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Society.

Charity Reg No. 500606