

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE HPS WESTERN COUNTIES GROUP**

## **1.STATUS and RELATIONSHIP**

A group of members of the Hardy Plant Society (registered Charity No. 208080, hereinafter the HPS) and registered to the HPS. The group is a body independent of the HPS, save for registration with the society. As such, it has no power or authority to bind the HPS or to enter into any contract on behalf of the Society except as may be expressly authorised by the HPS Trustees from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that the group is not a registered charity.

## **2.NAME**

The name of the group shall be the **HPS WESTERN COUNTIES GROUP** and this title shall be dependent upon continuing registration with the HPS. If registration is withdrawn, the Group shall delete the name 'Hardy Plant Society' (HPS) from its title immediately.

## **3. REGISTRATION to THE HARDY PLANT SOCIETY**

The Group shall, at all times, comply with the registration requirements as notified from time to time by the HPS.

## **4. OBJECTS**

To further the objects of the HPS on a local basis.

## **5. MEMBERS**

Only fully paid up members of the HPS may become members of the Group.

Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any General Meeting.

On joining the Group all members shall be offered a paper copy of the Group Constitution. (Members can view the Group Constitution on the Group website.)

From time to time a member may be awarded Honorary Membership at the discretion of the membership.

## **6. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

a.All members shall pay an annual sum as recommended by the Committee and approved at a General Meeting of the members.

b. Annual subscriptions shall become due on **1 January** each year.

## **7. FINANCE**

a.Funds belonging to the Group shall be deposited in an authorised bank account held in the name of the Group.

b. Cheques or payments drawn on the account shall be signed in accordance with a resolution approved by the Group Committee.

c. The financial year of the Group shall end on 31 March.

d. Annual accounts shall be prepared, examined by an independent person and submitted for approval of members at the Annual General Meeting.

## **8. OFFICERS and MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

- a. The following honorary Officers of the Group shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting: Chairman, (Vice Chairman), Secretary and Treasurer. In addition, there will be a minimum of 3 but a maximum of 6 other elected Committee members.
- b. The persons so elected shall form the Management Committee of the Group.
- c. All Officers and other members of the Committee shall seek re-election annually:
  - 1. The Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be eligible for re-election each year, subject to serving a maximum of three years ( extendable, if necessary to a maximum of five consecutive years).
  - 2. other members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election each year for a maximum of three years continuous service, after which time they shall resign and not be eligible for re-election until a further twelve months have elapsed.
- d. An individual may only hold one of the posts of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer at any time.
- e. Nominations for Officers and members of the Committee must be received by the Secretary in writing, together with confirmation of the Nominee's consent, not less than 14 days before the appointed date of the Annual General Meeting.
- f. A quorum for Committee meetings shall be four elected members of whom one must be an elected officer.
- g. The Committee has the power to co-opt new members to serve on the Committee until the following AGM when they must stand for election.

## **9. GENERAL MEETINGS (Annual or Extraordinary)**

- a. At least 21 days' notice of any General Meeting shall be given to all members specifying the business of the meeting.
- b. At General Meetings decisions shall be by a simple majority with the Chairman having the casting vote.
- c. A quorum at General Meetings shall be 10% of the current paid-up membership.
- d. An Annual General Meeting of all paid-up members of the Group shall be held once in each calendar year, within three months of the end of the financial year to transact the following business:
  - 1. To receive and adopt the Minutes of the last AGM.
  - 2. To receive the annual reports of the Officers of the Group.
  - 3. To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts of the preceding financial year.
  - 4. To transact any other business of which at least 21 days' notice has been given.
  - 5. To deal with any special matter which the Committee may wish to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee.
  - 6. To elect the Officers and other Committee members.
  - 7. To elect an examiner / auditor.
- e. An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group may be called at any time and shall be called within 40 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition, in writing, signed by not less than 10 members, stating the purpose for which the meeting is requested and setting out the resolutions which are to be proposed thereat. No other business shall be transacted at the meeting.

## **10. ALTERATIONS to the GROUP CONSTITUTION**

- a. The Constitution may be altered only at a General Meeting of the Group of which due notice has been given and which specifies the proposed alterations and of which a copy has been supplied to the HPS Group Secretaries Liaison for approval by the Trustees.
- b. A motion to amend the Constitution shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.

## **11. DISSOLUTION**

- a. A motion to dissolve the Group shall require a General Meeting of which not less than 21 days' notice shall have been given to all members. Such motion shall incorporate specific proposals for the distribution of the surplus assets of the Group after settlement of all liabilities. Such distribution shall be to an appropriate group as approved by Group members.
- b. A motion to dissolve the Group shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.

Dated: 29.4.23