



Gardening with hardy perennials

KENT GROUP

Constitution as amended
29th November 2020

- Status & Relationship** A group of members of The Hardy Plant Society Registered Charity No. 208080, (hereinafter the HPS) and registered with 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 Executive Trustees from time to time. For the avoidance of doubt it should be noted that the Group is not a registered charity.
- Name** The name of the Group shall be The Hardy Plant Society Kent Group and this title shall be dependent upon continuing registration with the HPS. If the registration is withdrawn the Group shall immediately delete the name Hardy Plant Society from its title.
- 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.
- Objectives** To further the objectives of the HPS on a local basis
- The promotion of hardy plants.
 - To create opportunities for members to broaden their knowledge of hardy plants and their culture.
 - To stimulate public interest in and knowledge of hardy plants.
 - To facilitate and encourage inter member contact.
 - To generally support such other objectives as may apply to the HPS.
- Membership**
- 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.
 - Each member shall receive a copy of the Group constitution.
- Subscriptions**
- All Members shall pay such annual sum as recommended by the Committee and approved at a General Meeting of the members.
 - Annual subscriptions shall become due on 1st January.
 - A member whose subscription is three months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned.

- d) A new member's subscription paid three months or less in advance of annual renewal date shall initially be entitled to up to 15 months membership benefits.

Finance

- a) All funds belonging to the Group shall be deposited in a banking account held in the name of the Group.
- b) Cheques or any payments drawn on the account shall be authorised in accordance with a resolution approved by the Group Committee.
- c) The financial year of the Group shall end on 1st September.
- d) Annual accounts shall be prepared and examined by an independent person and submitted for the approval of members at the Annual General Meeting.

Officers and Committee

- a) The following honorary officers of the Group shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting – Chairman, Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer and any other Officer deemed necessary from time to time. In addition, there will be a minimum of three but a maximum of five other elected Committee members.
- b) The persons so elected shall form the Management Committee of the Group and shall be responsible for the activities, programme and all day to day administration of the Group.
- c) All Officers and other members of the Committee shall seek re-election annually.
 - i) The Chairman 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) and shall not be eligible for re-election until a further period of 12 months has elapsed.
 - ii) The other Officers of the Group are eligible for re-election annually.
 - iii) Other members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election each year for a maximum of three years continuous service, after which they shall resign and not be eligible for re-election until a further period of 12 months has elapsed.
- d) No individual may hold, at the same time, the posts of Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.
- e) Nominations for Officers and members of the Committee must be received by the Secretary in writing, together with confirmation of the Nominees' consent, not less than 14 days before the date appointed for the Annual General Meeting.
- f) A quorum for the Committee shall be six elected members one of whom must be an elected Officer.

g) The committee shall have the right to co-opt additional members to serve until the following Annual General Meeting when they may stand for election.

General Meetings Annual or Extraordinary

- a) At least 21 days notice of any General Meeting shall be given to all members specifying any business of the meeting.
- b) At General Meetings decisions shall be by simple majority with the Chair 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:
 - i) To receive and adopt the Minutes of the last AGM.
 - ii) To receive the annual reports from the Officers of the Group.
 - iii) To receive and adopt the Annual Accounts from the preceding financial year.
 - iv) To transact any other business of which at least 21 days notice has been given.
 - v) To deal with any special matter which the Committee desires to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Committee.
 - vi) To elect Officers and other members of the Committee.
 - vii) To elect an auditor/examiner.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Group may be called at any time by the committee and shall be called within 40 days of receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 15 members stating the purpose for which the meeting is requested and setting out any resolutions which are to be proposed thereat. No other business shall be transacted at the meeting.

Alterations To 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 Co-ordinator for approval by the Trustees.
- b) A motion to amend the constitution shall require a majority of two thirds of votes cast.

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 the 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.