

THURGARTON GARDENING CLUB

CONSTITUTION

(AS AMENDED BY AT THE A.G.M. ON 17TH OCTOBER 2013)

1. NAME

The Club shall be known as Thurgarton Gardening Club (“the Club”).

2. OBJECTIVES AND AIMS

The objective of the Club is the promotion, within Thurgarton and surrounding areas, of horticulture, gardening and the enjoyment of gardens, by, inter alia:-

- The provision of a forum for discussion of gardening matters,
- The provision for an exchange of plants, seeds and equipment between members,
- The provision of regular meetings for members,
- The organization of visits to places and events of gardening and horticultural interest,
- The provision of talks and presentations by guest speakers on gardening, gardening related topics and other subjects of general interest,
- The provision of bulk buying and discount facilities for members.
- In conjunction with the Thurgarton Parish Council, assistance with the care of unused public land in Thurgarton,
- The holding of Plant and/or Produce Sales
- The creation of an album of photographs of Thurgarton gardens on the Thurgarton Village Website, and
- Administering the Allotment Scheme on behalf of the Thurgarton Parish Council.

3. MEMBERSHIP

The Club is open to all who have fully paid their subscriptions for the current year.

Visitors may attend talks, visits and other occasions organized by the Club subject to availability of space and the payment of the fee set by the Committee from time to time.

The membership year shall run from 1st November to 31st October of the following year.

An annual subscription shall be payable by each member. In the year commencing 1st November 2012 the subscription shall be £15. Thereafter the subscription shall be as proposed by the Committee and endorsed by a majority of members at the Annual General Meeting.

Only members who have paid the current year’s subscription shall be entitled to vote at any regular meeting, the AGM or an Extraordinary Meeting.

4. MANAGEMENT

The Club shall be managed by a Committee elected at each AGM and shall comprise three Officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and three other members. All Committee members shall be eligible for re-election.

The Committee from time to time may co-opt additional members for specific projects or to fill a casual vacancy. Such co-opted members will serve until the next AGM, at which they may be re-appointed. Until such re-appointment, co-opted members shall not be eligible to vote on Committee matters and shall not be counted in respect of numbers present for a quorum.

The Committee shall meet once in every two months and at such other times as may be necessary.

A quorum shall be four members, not including co-opted members.

The Secretary shall give not less than 10 days’ notice of the date, time and place of all Committee meetings to all Committee members (including those co-opted to the Committee) and provide each such member with an agenda.

Matters requiring a vote in Committee shall be decided by a simple majority of those members present. Each Committee member shall have one vote. In the event of there being equal votes, the Chairman (or, in his or her absence, the member appointed acting Chairman at the commencement of the meeting) shall have the casting vote.

Where a lack of time to arrange a meeting dictates, an urgent issue may be dealt with by e-mail or telephone discussions between not less than four members, including any two of the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

The Secretary shall be responsible for keeping Minutes of all AGMs, Extraordinary Meetings, Committee Meetings and urgent decisions made by the Committee without meeting.

The Treasurer shall maintain a register of the names, addresses and e-mail addresses of the Club members.

5. FINANCE

The Treasurer shall have responsibility for all financial aspects of the Club and shall bank all monies (except no more than £50 petty cash) in the name of the Club.

All cheques issued on behalf of the Club shall be signed by any two of the Chairman, Treasurer and one other designated Committee member.

The Treasurer shall provide a financial statement at each Committee meeting and shall report annually to the Club at its AGM. The accounts produced at the AGM shall have been audited by the Club Auditor.

The Treasurer shall propose any recommended change in the annual subscription at the AGM whereupon the members shall consider and vote on the proposal.

The Club Auditor may be any person competent to examine the Books, Statements and Receipts of the Club and to give an accurate report in respect of their conclusions. The Auditor need not be fully qualified as such. The Auditor, who may not be a member of the Club Committee, shall be appointed by the members of the Club at each AGM.

6. CLUB MEETINGS

At least six regular meetings of the Club plus an AGM shall be held each year.

The Secretary shall give notice of regular meetings, the AGM, any Extraordinary Meetings, visits and other Club events through the Thurgarton Village E-Mail Service, in Thurgarton People and on the Thurgarton Village Website.

The Chairman normally shall preside at all meetings. The quorum shall be 8 members

Where an agenda item at any meeting of the Club requires a vote (save as to amendments to this Constitution), that vote shall be by a simple majority of members present at the meeting. The vote shall be by way of show of hands. Each member or joint member shall have one vote. In the event of an equal number of votes being cast 'for' and 'against' the Chairman (or the Acting Chairman appointed at the opening of the meeting) shall have the casting vote.

The AGM shall be held in October each year from October 2013 for the purpose of:

- Receiving the
 - Chairman's Report,
 - Secretary's Report
 - Treasurer's audited report
- The election of Officers and Committee for the following year and
- The Appointment of the Auditor
- Considering any proposal or matter submitted by a member to the Secretary not less than 14 days prior to the AGM

An Extraordinary Meeting shall be called whenever the Committee deems it expedient or on a written request to the Secretary for such a meeting signed by not less than five members. The Extraordinary Meeting shall be held within 30 days of such a request.

7. PLANT AND/OR PRODUCE SALES

Any Plant and/or Produce Sale organised by or on behalf of the Club shall be open to all members of the public at an entrance fee to be agreed by the Committee. Entrance to such Sales shall be free to members.

The price of plants to be sold shall be set by the donor of the plants. On the sale of the plant, one-half the sale price shall be paid to the donor: the balance shall be retained for the benefit of the Club.

In the event of a grower wishing to sell his or her own plants at a sale, he or she shall pay to the Club a fee agreed in advance by the Committee.

All Entrance fees, table charges and other profits arising from a Plant and/or Produce Sale shall belong to the Club.

8. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

The Club may be dissolved at an AGM or Extraordinary Meeting by the agreement of two thirds of the members present. On dissolution and after payment of all outstanding accounts and any monies allotted to the Club by and reverting to the Thurgarton Parish Council, any monies standing to the credit of the Club shall be shared equally between paid up members.

9. THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution shall take effect upon ratification of the same by two thirds of those attending the Inaugural Meeting of the Club on the 5th September 2012. The Inaugural Meeting shall for all purposes constitute the AGM for the year 2012 -2013.

No changes may be made to the Constitution other than by a two-thirds majority of members present at an AGM.

Proposals for amendment of the Constitution must be submitted by members to the Secretary not less than 30 days prior to an AGM.

Copies of this Constitution shall be provided by the Secretary free of charge to each member joining the Club. A copy of the Constitution shall be displayed on the Thurgarton Village Website.