


Constitution of Newton Hall Allotments Association


1. The name of the Association shall be THE NEWTON HALL ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATION.
2. **Objects-** The objects of the Association shall be:
 - a. To promote the interests of allotment holders and to take joint action for the benefits of members.
 - b. To co-operate with any committee set up by the Government, local authorities and other bodies, to further the interests of allotment holders.
 - c. To conduct negotiations in respect of land.
 - d. To take such steps as may be required by the Local Authority for the good management and cultivation of allotments.
 - e. To protect members, as far as reasonably possible, from damage, trespass and theft.
 - f. To arrange for instruction in horticulture; also lectures, discussions, exhibitions and competitions and to distribute literature.
3. **Members-** The Association shall consist of such allotment holders and gardeners resident within the district of Newton Hall and surrounding areas whose applications for membership are approved by the Committee.
4. **Association Fees and Rents –** Every member shall pay an annual rent as may be determined by the Treasurer and agreed at an Annual General Meeting. New members on joining the Association will pay the current Association fee.
5. **Arrears-** Any member who is one month in arrears with their rent shall be held to have ceased to be a member of the Association, unless there are special extenuating circumstances.
6. **Officers-** The officers shall be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary and two Auditors, who shall (with the exception of the Auditors) be *ex-officio* members of the Committee.
7. **Committee-** The affairs of the association shall be conducted by a Committee of Management of not less than 8 members. The Committee and other officers shall retire at the Annual General Meeting, but shall be eligible for re-election. A quorum at Committee Meetings shall be not less than 5 members in case of equal voting the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The Committee shall fill casual vacancies, and the members so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.
8. **Meetings-** The **Annual General Meeting**, at which, the audited accounts and the Secretary's report shall be submitted, the officers for the ensuing year elected and rules may be amended by a two-thirds majority.
9. **Discussions at Meetings-** No party political or sectarian discussions shall be raised or resolutions proposed at ANY meeting of the Association.
10. **Funds-** The Committee shall open a banking account in the name of the Association with such bank as the Committee may select, and all monies received from any source on behalf of the Association shall be paid into such account. The Treasurer and two officers of the Committee shall sign cheques.
11. **Audit-** There shall be appointed 2 Auditors who are not members of the Committee, to audit the accounts and submit their Reports to the Annual General Meeting.

12. **Affiliation to N.S.L.G.-** The Association shall, on the adoption of this Constitution nominate one of its officials as a representative member of the National Society of Leisure Gardeners Limited and shall agree to pay such annual affiliation contributions as may from time to time be prescribed by the said Association.
13. **Offences-** The Committee may terminate the membership of a member whose conduct is proved to their satisfaction to be detrimental to the interests of his fellow members. Any charge against a member must be communicated in writing. An appeal from a decision of the Committee may be made to Durham County Council Senior Allotments Officer.
14. **Dissolutions-** The Association may be dissolved at a **Special General Meeting** of which fourteen days notice shall be given. The objects for which the meeting is called shall be stated in the notice convening the meeting. If the membership decides it is necessary to dissolve the Association, all assets, after satisfaction of debts or liabilities, shall be transferred or given to Durham County Council
15. **Matters not provided for-** Any matters not provided for in these rules shall be dealt with by the Committee at their discretion.

The Officers of the Newton Hall Allotment Association duly sign this Constitution,

Lorraine Morris..........Chair

James Duffy..........Secretary

Keith Forster..........Treasurer

Date.....30.10.2015.....