

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 affiliation through 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 Committee from time to time. For avoidance of doubt, it should be noted that the Group is not a registered charity.

1. NAME

The name shall be the Hardy Plant Society Essex Group (the Group) and this title shall be dependent upon continuing registration as an affiliated body of the HPS. In the event that the registration is withdrawn at any time, the Group will forthwith delete the name of Hardy Plant Society from the title.

2. OBJECTS

to further the objects of the HPS on a regional basis.

3. MEMBERS

- a) Only paid up members of the HPS may become members of the Group. Each member shall be entitled to one vote at any general meeting.
- b) Each member shall receive a copy of the Constitution.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

- a) All members shall pay an annual subscription as recommended by the Committee and approved at a general meeting.
- b) Annual subscriptions shall be paid at such time and in such manner as the committee shall from time to time decide.

c) FINANCE

- a) All funds belonging to the Group shall be deposited in a banking account in the name of the Group. Online payments shall be authorised by, and cheques drawn on the account shall be signed by, two officers of the Group nominated either by other members in general meeting or by the duly elected committee.
- b) The financial year of the Group shall end on 30th September.
- c) Annual accounts shall be prepared and audited and submitted for the approval of members in general meeting.

d) GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) An Annual General Meeting 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 annual reports of officers and the annual accounts of the last preceding year.
 - ii) To elect officers and other members of the committee.
 - iii) To elect an auditor.
 - iv) To deal with any special matter which the committee desires to bring before the members and to receive and consider suggestions from the members.
 - v) To transact any other business of which at least 21 days' notice has been given.

- b) 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 10 members stating the purpose for which the meeting is requested and setting out any resolutions which are to be proposed thereat.
- c) At least 21 days' notice of any general meetings shall be given to all members specifying the business of the meeting.
- d) A quorum at general meetings shall be 15% of the current paid up membership. If a quorum is not present at the AGM the Chairman shall open the meeting for the sole purpose of electing officers and committee.
- e) At general meetings decisions shall be by simple majority of those present with the Chairman having a casting vote. Any motion to amend the Constitution or to dissolve the Group shall require majorities as specified in the relevant sections of this Constitution.

e) OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

- a) The following officers of the Group shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting – Chairman (Vice Chairman), Secretary and Treasurer and not more than 7 general members. 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. The committee shall have the right to co-opt additional members to serve until the following Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting may also if it thinks fit, elect a President.
- b) The Chairman and general members of the committee shall be eligible for re-election in that capacity for not more than 5 years continuous service, unless there are no other candidates nominated and the existing Chairman or committee member is willing to continue in post. Each person so elected for longer than 5 years continuous service must then seek re-election annually.
- c) Nominations for officers and the general members of the committee must be received by the Secretary in writing together with confirmation of the nominee's consent not less than 10 days before the date appointed for the Annual General Meeting.
- d) A quorum for the committee shall be 4 elected members of whom one must be an elected officer.
- e) The committee shall appoint a Secretary or other representative to attend meetings of the Regional Group Secretaries of the HPS.
- f) While the Group is registered as an affiliated body of the HPS, the committee may nominate a member observer at meetings of the HPS Executive Committee except that, if any member of the Group is an elected member of the HPS executive committee, that member shall also act as the Groups representative.

f) REGISTRATION AS AN AFFILIATED BODY OF THE HPS

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

g) ALTERATIONS TO 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.
- b) A motion to amend the Constitution shall require a majority of two thirds of votes cast.

h) DISSOLUTION

- a) A motion to dissolve the group shall require an extraordinary 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.

b) A motion to dissolve the Group shall require a majority of two thirds of votes cast.

Amended November 16th 2025

