



The Constitution of the Evercreech Show Society

Originally founded 1904

1. The Name of the Society

The name of the Society shall be 'The Evercreech Show Society'

2. The Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be to:

- Promote a high standard of horticulture, arts and crafts practices among its members by holding an annual show and competition
- Provide a social context for the sharing of ideas and experiences within the community by holding events during the year and arranging occasional visits to gardens and other sites of interest.

3. Membership of the Society

Membership of the Society shall be open to anyone interested in supporting the Society and its objectives

Membership privileges shall be decided by the Committee and shall be reviewed in advance of each Annual General Meeting.

4. Conduct of the Society's affairs

The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee comprising the Officers of the Society (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and other members. No one individual shall hold more than one office at a time. This Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees comprising elected members of the Committee and/or other members of the Society to perform specific tasks, such as the running of the Society's annual show and other activities. To be a member of the Society committee, or a sub-committee, a person must be a member or a patron of the society

5. Election of Committee

The officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and shall hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting. The Chairman and Vice Chairman may hold the same office for no more than five consecutive periods of office.

Ordinary members of the Committee may retire after one year's service or choose to be elected for subsequent years. The decision as to which members should retire and when they shall retire shall be taken by the Committee

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itself. If any Committee member should die or resign before the expiration of their term of office, the Committee may fill the vacancy if they see fit, but the person so appointed shall retire at the time when their predecessor would have retired.

The Committee may co-opt up to three members to serve as full Committee members until the next Annual General Meeting.

6. Absence of the Chairman

Meetings of the Committee shall be chaired by the Chairman of the Society. In the event that the Chairman is absent at any meeting of the Committee, the Vice-Chairman shall take the chair. In the event that neither Chairman nor Vice-Chairman is able to attend a meeting, the Committee members present shall elect one of their number to take the chair for that meeting.

7. Honorary President, Life Member

The Committee may appoint distinguished individuals to the honorary position of President for a period that shall not exceed three years. The Committee may, from time to time, confer honorary membership (e.g. Life Patron) on individuals whom the Society wishes to honour.

8. Dates of Committee Meetings

The Committee shall meet in accordance with dates agreed by the Committee prior to the start of each financial year or on such dates as may be agreed by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

9. Annual General Meeting

An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held within two months of the financial year end for the purpose of:

- Approving the Committee's Annual Report on the work of the Society during the preceding financial year
- Election of Officers for the forthcoming year and Committee Members to replace those who have retired
- Agreeing any proposal for changes to matters of policy
- Any Committee members retiring shall retire at the end of the Annual General meeting when they have completed an agreed term of service. It is usual that Committee members shall retire in rotation. Of the members retiring by rotation one may be declared immediately eligible for re-election, but the others may not be re-elected to the Committee until one year has passed. The decision as to which retiring member is eligible for immediate re-election shall be taken by the Committee on a majority vote.
- Approving financial statements signed by an Auditor
- Electing an Auditor for the next year
- Considering any motion which has been notified to the Secretary of the Society at least 28 calendar days prior to the date of the AGM and which has been circulated to all Members
- Noting any other matters for consideration by the Committee.

10. Extraordinary General Meetings

The Committee has the power to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society at any time and must do so within 28 calendar days of receiving a written request signed by ten members. Notice in writing must be sent to all members not fewer than fourteen calendar days before such a meeting, informing them of the date, time, venue and purpose of the meeting. No business other than that detailed in the notice shall be transacted at an EGM.

The Chairman of an ordinary, Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting will be the President of the Society or, in their absence, the Chairman of the Society or, in the absence of both of them, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee shall act as Chairman at any ordinary, Annual or Extraordinary General meeting of the Society.

In the event of none of these being available the Committee members present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting.

11. Quorum

No matters of policy shall be agreed at an Annual or Extraordinary General meeting or at a Committee Meeting unless a quorum is present.

The quorum of a General Meeting shall be ten percent of the membership (unless otherwise required by these rules) and the quorum of a Committee Meeting shall consist of four members. The quorum of any sub-committee shall be decided by the Committee when appointing it. In the event of a quorum not being present, the meeting shall be adjourned to a day, time and place decided by the Chairman of the meeting.

12. Voting

Only members whose subscription is fully paid or those holding honorary membership of the Society shall be entitled to vote at an Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting or meeting of any Committee or Sub-Committee.

Voting at all meetings shall be by a show of hands unless the Chairman directs that a secret ballot be taken. All matters shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and voting.

The chairman of an Annual General Meeting, Extraordinary General Meeting or any meeting of the Committee may not participate in the initial voting at any meeting but, in the event of a tie, shall have a casting vote.

13. Subscription

The annual subscription for each membership period (1st January – 31st December) shall be decided by the Committee and notified to all members at least fourteen calendar days in advance of the Annual General Meeting. Annual subscriptions shall be payable not later than 31st March.

Members joining the Society after the due date shall pay their annual subscription on joining. Members joining after 30th September will have paid their subscription up to the end of the next following membership period.

Any member required to pay a subscription and whose subscription remains unpaid after the due date shall cease to be a member of the Society from that date. The Committee may require any person wishing to rejoin the Society, whose membership lapsed because of non-payment of subscription, to pay the subscription for the current membership period and, if

not already paid, the subscription due for the previous membership period, as a condition of readmission. Failure or refusal by the Treasurer and the Committee to collect subscriptions shall not disbar members from further participation in the Society's affairs.

14. The Society's Funds

All subscriptions and other moneys received by the Society shall be passed to the Treasurer, who shall be responsible for all of the Society's funds, for keeping accounting records thereof and presenting the accounts for audit at the end of the financial year. All sums received by the Treasurer on the Society's behalf shall be paid into the Society's bank account and all cheques drawn on that account shall be signed by any two nominated officers, one of whom shall be the Treasurer.

The funds of the Society shall be used solely to further the objectives of the Society and only in ways approved by the Committee.

An Auditor shall be elected at every Annual General Meeting to serve until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. No Committee Member shall be eligible to act as Auditor.

The Society's financial year shall end on 30th September

15. Constitution

This constitution may only be amended at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting and then only if notice of the proposed amendment has been notified to all members not fewer than fourteen calendar days before the meeting.

16. Winding-up the Society

A decision to wind-up the Society shall only be taken at an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting that is attended by a minimum of half of the total membership. There must be a majority vote in favour of the proposal to wind-up the Society by those attending the meeting. In the event that the decision to wind-up the Society is agreed, the meeting shall then go on to appoint a Committee of not fewer than three and not more than seven individuals to oversee the disposal of the Society's assets. The meeting shall give a clear indication to that Committee of the use to which any remaining funds should be put. The Committee appointed to oversee the disposal of the Society's assets shall abide as closely as possible to the wishes expressed at the meeting which appointed it.

17. Other Matters

Any matters for which provision is not made in this constitution shall be decided by the Committee at its discretion and shall be reported to the next Annual General Meeting for endorsement or further direction.

Updated: 06 December 2018