

# The Marlow Allotments Association

Established in 1983 to oppose sell-off of allotment land, first Committee meeting 21/11/1984

## RULES

1. The name of the Association shall be the Marlow Allotments Association (MAA).
2. Objectives The objectives of the Association shall be:
  - a. To promote the interests of all members in their gardening activities by inviting their input and leading their joint actions to achieve the common benefit of members.
  - b. To conduct, when necessary, negotiations with the local authority in respect of matters which are judged to affect the interests of members and the integrity of the sites.
  - c. To support members in their gardening activities by obtaining a supply of seeds and other horticultural items on their behalf.
  - d. To encourage the maintenance of the allotments and enjoyment of the gardening environment by arranging lectures, demonstrations, competitions and other social events.
  - e. To secure the future of the Allotments by maintaining Membership of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners.
3. Scope The Association shall operate entirely within the United Kingdom.
4. Membership To be open to any allotment gardener who is committed to the shared objectives of the Association to meet the common needs of the allotments. The Committee may reject an application from, or expel from the Association, an allotment gardener who is judged to be acting against the objectives of the Association. The Committee will inform the local authority of its decision, so that it may in turn make a judgement in respect of the allotment lease.
5. Subscriptions An annual subscription, renewable on 1st November each year, secures membership of the Association until the 31 October of the next year. This sum includes members' annual subscription to the National Society for Allotment and Leisure Gardeners. The subscription amount will be reviewed annually and approved at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
6. Officers Shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be elected individually at each AGM. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. The chairman's tenure shall not exceed two years. A past chairman may be re-elected after one year's break.
7. Committee The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of the Officers and Ordinary Members. There shall be at least four and no more than ten Ordinary Members. All members of the Committee shall be individually elected at the AGM by a show of hands. Casual vacancies may be filled by the Committee and Members so appointed shall hold office until the next AGM. Co-option will not count as term served. A quorum for Committee Meetings shall be 50% of the Committee membership.
8. Duties of the Committee Shall be to carry out the objectives of the Association, control the Association's finances and to define the duties of the Officers and Ordinary Members who shall, in all aspects, be subject to the control of the Committee.
9. General Meetings The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held at such time as the Committee or a General Meeting shall decide. Ten members shall form a quorum. At the AGM, the inspected accounts and Secretary's report shall be submitted. Officers and Ordinary Committee Members for the ensuing year shall be elected. Notice shall be given to members two months in advance of the AGM and nominations invited for committee membership. Nominations with a proposer and seconder should be submitted to the Secretary at least 24 hours before the AGM. Proposers and seconds must be members of the Association at the time of proposal.
10. Rule Changes: Any changes to Rules shall be included in the Notice convening the General Meeting. Rule changes must be agreed by a majority of members present and voting at any General Meeting.
11. Special General Meetings May be called if requested in writing to the Secretary by at least ten members. No party-political or sectarian discussions shall be raised or resolutions proposed at either Committee or General Meetings.
12. Bank Account The Committee shall maintain a bank account in the name of the Association. All monies received from any source on behalf of the Association shall be paid into such account. Cheques shall be signed by one out of three signatories and a debit card provided for the Treasurer to pay for expenditure incurred on behalf of the Association.
13. Disposal of Assets In the event of dissolution of the Association, all assets remaining after meeting the Association's liabilities, shall be distributed equally to all those who are paid up members at the time of dissolution.
14. Data Protection The Association shall hold limited personal information about its members to enable the efficient running of and communication within the Association. It fully complies with UK legislation. Details are covered in the MAA Data Protection document available on request.