

## Lansbury Gardeners Constitution

1. **Name:** The name of the organisation shall be: Lansbury Gardeners
2. **Office:** The office of Lansbury Gardeners shall be that of the Secretary, 116 Hind Grove, London, E14 6HP
3. **Aim:** The aim of Lansbury Gardeners is to promote and develop gardening for all ages. We wish to make our estates greener and more attractive places to live, and by doing so promote fitness and well being through light exercise, increased social contact and raised awareness of healthy eating.
4. **Objects:** The objects of Lansbury Gardeners (the Organisation) shall be:
  - a. To work towards promoting and supporting gardening related activities for the people living in the Poplar area of East London and in particular the Lansbury Estate (an estate of Poplar HARCA).
  - b. To provide gardening related educational opportunities.
  - c. To identify areas where new gardens can be developed, or existing gardens nurtured.
  - d. To develop gardening skills relevant to all seasons.
  - e. To work with schools and other community groups to foster interest and development of gardening skills and knowledge.
  - f. To share and foster the enjoyment and pleasure of gardening.
5. **Powers:** In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Management Committee may exercise the following powers:
  - a. Power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any requirements of the law.
  - b. Power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use.
  - c. Power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects and to exchange information and advice with them.
  - d. Power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects.
  - e. Power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.
6. **Membership:** Membership of the Organisation will be open to anyone in sympathy with and supporting the aim and objects of the Organisation living in the Poplar area of East London.
7. **Resignation and termination of membership:**
  - a. Any member of Lansbury Gardeners may resign their membership by giving written notice to the Secretary to that effect.
  - b. The Management Committee may, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, terminate or suspend the membership of any member, if in its opinion their conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of Lansbury Gardeners PROVIDED THAT the individual member shall have the right to be heard by the Management Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.
8. **Annual Subscription:**
  - a. All members shall pay a £1.00 annual subscription.
  - b. The Management Committee shall have the right to waive the subscription charge.

9. **Management:**

- a. The management and general business of Lansbury Gardeners shall be vested in a Management Committee, elected at the Annual General Meeting and consisting of:
  - i. A Chair, a Secretary and a Treasurer (known after as the officers).
  - ii. In addition, other members may be elected to the Management Committee as decided at the Annual General Meeting.
- b. The Management Committee will comprise a minimum of three members.
- c. The Management Committee shall meet not less than four times a year and shall have the power to fill any Management Committee vacancy that may arise during the year.
- d. Any Management Committee member who does not attend three consecutive meetings of the Management Committee, without reasonable excuse shall be replaced. The Chair will appoint this representative.
- e. Rules for the effective running of the Organisation shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting and any subsequent alterations shall be agreed at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting called for this purpose.

10. **Management Committee members not to be personally interested:**

- a. No member of the Management Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the Organisation.
- b. No member of the Management Committee (otherwise than as a member of the Management Committee) shall be interested in any contract entered into by the Management Committee.
- c. No member of the Management Committee shall receive remuneration.

11. **Sub-committees:**

- a. The Management Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees for supervising or performing any activity or service.
- b. The Management Committee shall define the terms of reference of any sub-committee and may determine its composition and the duration of its activities.
- c. All acts and proceedings of any sub-committee shall be reported as soon as possible to the Management Committee.

12. **Annual General Meeting:**

- a. An Annual General Meeting of Lansbury Gardeners shall be held once a year in order to:
  - i. Receive reports on progress of the Organisation
  - ii. Receive independently examined or audited accounts
  - iii. Elect members of the Management Committee
  - iv. Agree future priorities
- b. The Secretary must give the members a minimum of ten working days notice of the Annual General Meeting. This notice must include the business proposed.
- c. The quorum of an Annual General Meeting of Lansbury Gardeners shall be one third of the membership.

13. **Special General Meetings:**

- a. The Management Committee may convene a Special General Meeting at any time.
- b. Special General Meetings may also be requested where agreed by at least one third of the membership.
- c. The Secretary must give the members a minimum of ten working days notice of any Special General Meeting. This notice must include the business proposed.
- d. The quorum of a Special General Meeting of Lansbury Gardeners shall be one third of the membership.

14. **Finance:**

- a. All monies raised on or behalf of the Organisation shall be applied to further the objects of the Organisation and for no other purpose.
- b. The Treasurer shall keep proper account of the finances of the Organisation and shall open a Bank Account in the name of the Organisation.
- c. The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer (the officers), shall all be nominated as cheque signatories of any Organisation bank account.
- d. Two out three officers shall jointly sign all cheques or authorisations.

15. **Alterations to the constitution:**

- a. Any alteration to this constitution shall require the approval of a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the Annual General Meeting at which it is discussed.
- b. The Secretary must receive any resolution for the alteration of the constitution at least twenty-eight days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward.
- c. At least ten working days notice in writing shall be given to all members that a meeting is taking place.

16. **Dissolution:**

- a. If the Management committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Organisation, it shall call a Special General Meeting of all members, giving them at least twenty-eight days notice and stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed at the meeting.
- b. If such a decision shall be confirmed by a simple majority of those present and voting at the meeting, the Management Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities. These assets shall be applied towards charitable purposes similar to those of the Organisation such as the management committee may decide.

This Constitution was adopted as the Constitution of the **Lansbury Gardeners**

At a meeting held at Hind Grove Community Hall on Thursday April 9<sup>th</sup> 2009

Simon Carroll CHAIR

Gordon Joly TREASURER

Louise Joly SECRETARY