



# DIDCOT ALLOTMENT SOCIETY

## RULES AND CONSTITUTION

**1. NAME:** The name of the Society is Didcot Allotment Society (DAS).

**2. AIM:** To promote the interests of members in growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, for recreation, health, education and community spirit.

**3. OBJECTS:**

- To liaise with Didcot Town Council to improve allotment sites and facilities, ensure that sufficient plots are available for residents and encourage empty plots to be re-let promptly and in a manageable state.
- To act as a point of information for all allotment holders in Didcot, including introducing new tenants to experienced gardeners and advising on action in the event of damage or theft.
- To raise awareness of cost-effective resources available through the National Allotment Society and also locally (e.g. the Didcot and District Horticultural Association).
- To engage with the wider community in Didcot through running gardening events, promoting green spaces, encouraging allotment uptake and sharing gardening knowledge (via website and newsletters).

**4. MEMBERSHIP:**

The DAS Committee will approve membership applications. Membership is open to all Didcot residents. The Committee reserves the right to refuse or revoke membership.

**5. SUBSCRIPTION:**

Every member will pay on entry into the DAS an annual subscription of £5, renewable on 1 May. DAS is a member of the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd (NAS) and the annual DAS subscription includes an annual affiliation contribution to NAS.

**6. ARREARS:**

Any member who is two months in arrears with his or her subscription will cease to be a member, unless an explanation of extenuating circumstances is given to the Committee in writing.

**7. OFFICERS:**

The Officers of the DAS are: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Officer, Publicity and Communications Officer, and one other member. They will be elected at each Annual General Meeting. Retiring Officers will be eligible to stand again. The Committee will meet at least quarterly.

**8. COMMITTEE:**

The affairs of DAS will be conducted by a Committee of not less than six members, to include one from a minimum of four of the five allotment sites. A quorum will be four members. The Committee will retire at the Annual General Meeting but will be eligible for re-election. The Committee reserves the right to co-opt a member if a vacancy or specific need exists in the year. The Committee reserves the right to form sub-committees as required. Casual vacancies will be filled by the Committee and the members so appointed will hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

**9. CONDUCT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS:**

Questions will be decided upon by a majority of votes. If votes are equal the Chairperson will have the casting vote.

**10. GENERAL MEETINGS:**

The date of the Annual General Meeting will be decided by the Committee or a General Meeting. Ten members will form a quorum. At the meeting the audited accounts and Secretary's Report will be submitted and the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year elected. Special General Meetings will be called upon the requisition in writing to the Secretary of at least ten members. No party-political or sectarian discussions will be raised or resolutions proposed at either Committee or General Meetings.

**11. BANK ACCOUNT:**

The Committee will hold a bank account in the name of the Society and all monies received from any source will be paid into the account. Two out of three signatories (being the Chairperson, Treasurer and Membership Officer) will sign cheques.

**12. AUDITORS:**

One auditor will be appointed, who is not a member of the Committee, to audit or inspect the accounts and to report on this to the Annual General Meeting.