



CONSTITUTION

1. **Name:** The name of the Association shall be the **Ambleside Allotments Association**.
2. **Objectives:** The objectives of the Association shall be
 - To establish, maintain and manage sites within the Ambleside area in accordance with the Organic guidelines issued by the Association.
 - To conduct negotiations with local authorities, landowners and other organisations and individuals to secure land for gardening and growing in the Ambleside area.
 - To promote the interests of all members in horticulture and associated activities.
 - Take appropriate action for the benefit of full and associate members.
 - To take appropriate action to protect sites against damage, trespass and theft.
 - To co-operate with other horticultural, environmental and conservation organisations, and the wider community, in matters of mutual interest and benefit.
3. **Membership Eligibility.**

The Association's membership shall consist of 'Plot-holder Members' and 'Associate Members', being persons resident within the five Lakes Parish wards* (subject to applications being approved by the AAA committee). Membership shall be open to all persons irrespective of **age, gender, ethnic origin, nationality, disability, political or religious belief or sexual orientation. AAA supports equal opportunities.

*Ambleside, Rydal, Langdale, Grasmere and Troutbeck.
**See Plot-holders' Agreement article 1.14 re restrictions on unaccompanied minors on AAA sites.
4. **Membership Fees.**

Each 'Plot-holder Member' and 'Associate Member' shall pay an annual membership fee (the amount being determined by the AGM on the recommendation of the Committee). In addition, each 'Plot-holder Member' shall pay the appropriate plot rental fee (pro-rata, determined by plot size) on or before 30 November each year. The Committee has the authority – in accordance with the site rules and plot-holder agreements – to terminate the membership of a full or associate member. The Association may decide to offer honorary life membership in order to recognise exceptional contribution towards its aims.
5. **Arrears.**

Any Plot-holder Member who is more than forty days in arrears with his/her subscription shall be held to have ceased to be a member, unless explanation in writing is given to the Committee of extenuating circumstances.
6. **Officers.**

The Officers of the Association shall be a Chairperson, a Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be Ambleside Allotment Association members – but not necessarily Plot-holder Members - elected at each Annual General Meeting. Retiring officers shall be eligible for re-election. They shall be ex-officio members of the Committee.

7. Committee.

The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by a Committee of Management of not less than seven Plot-holder and/or Associate Members. The Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election. Casual vacancies shall be filled by the Committee by co-option, and the members so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

8. General Meetings.

Ordinary committee meetings shall be held at a frequency to be decided by the Committee. A quorum for committee meetings shall be not less than four members, including at least two officers. At least one 'Plot-holder Member' from each site is entitled to be a member of the Ambleside Allotments Association Committee.

9. Annual General Meetings.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time as the Committee or a General Meeting shall decide (but shall be no later than the end of the first week in November). The secretary will give 21 days notice – in writing – of an AGM. This notice shall be posted in a prominent place on all main sites, and circulated by e mail or post to each Association member. Each 'Plot-holder' and 'Associate Member' over 16 years of age is entitled to one vote at the AGM.

A quorum shall comprise 10% of Plot-holder/Associate Members. At the AGM, the Audited Accounts and Secretary's Report shall be submitted, and the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year elected.

10. Special General Meetings.

A Special General Meeting may be called upon the requisition in writing to the Secretary of at least ten Plot-holder Members. No party-political or sectarian discussions shall be raised or resolutions proposed at either Committee or General Meetings.

11. Bank Account.

The Committee shall operate a bank account in the name of Ambleside Allotments Association, and all monies received from any source on behalf of the Association shall be paid into the account. Two out of three nominated signatories shall sign cheques.

12. Auditors.

An Independent examination of the accounts shall be carried out annually, performed by an independent examiner, who shall report to the AGM.

13. Membership Subscriptions.

AAA will pay an annual subscription to The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners Ltd. Membership of other local or national organisations shall be at the discretion of the AAA Committee.

14. Amendments to the Constitution.

Suggested revisions to the Constitution shall be communicated to the Committee in writing, no later than 21 days prior to the AGM. Suggested revisions to the Constitution will be communicated to all members of the association no later than 7 days prior to the AGM. A two-thirds majority will be required at the AGM to agree amendments or inclusions.

15. Dissolution.

A resolution to dissolve AAA requires a minimum of 21 day notice, and shall be communicated to all members in writing. Dissolution can only take place if there is a two-thirds majority vote to dissolve at the AGM.

In the event of dissolution, any assets remaining in the bank account of the AAA – after settlement of liabilities – shall be donated to a community group or charity, as agreed by the Committee.

16. Access to documents.

A hard or digital copy of this Constitution shall be available to all members of AAA.

This constitution was approved by the existing Committee of:

- Pete Martin**
- Rebecca Costello**
- Jane Amos**
- Melissa Harwood**
- Charles Black**
- Dayve Ward**
- Paul Wileman**
- Linda Doran**
- Sally Capewell**
- Mike Green**
- Adrian Rose**
- Emily Christmas**

And formally adopted at the AGM on:

October 10th 2011