

## **Proposed dissolution of DHPS - Frequently Asked Questions**

On hearing this sad news, we are sure there will be questions you may have which we will try to cover in this document. Please take some time to read the following. Thank you.

### **1) Why are you proposing that DHPS should be dissolved?**

Lack of Committee members and Officers. To comply with our constitution and the requirements of the national HPS, DHPS requires a minimum of 3 Officers to be able to operate. These are Chairman, Treasurer and Group Secretary. In addition, there are other key functions that must be filled: managing our membership, arranging speakers, arranging events, such as our annual plant fair, trips and visits, and co-ordinating our volunteers who help out at meetings. At present there are just 2 committee members, one of whom is temporarily standing in as Acting Treasurer and who will be leaving the committee at the end of year, and our volunteer helpers, whose help is invaluable but not sufficient on its own to keep the Group running.

### **2) Why now?**

To date we have just about managed with the existing Committee members as well as access to previous Committee members who have given their time and advice to help as a temporary measure, but with only 2 committee members the task has been very time consuming and difficult, and as a result is unsustainable.

### **3) Why do we need an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)?**

In order to close the Group, we have to follow the process set out in our Constitution, item 12, which states:

“a) A motion to dissolve the Group shall require an Extraordinary General Meeting of which not less than 21 days’ notice shall have been given to all members. Such motion shall incorporate specific proposals for the distribution of the surplus assets of the Group after settlement of all liabilities. Such distribution shall be approved by the Group members.

b) A motion to dissolve the Group shall require a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast”

### **4) What will happen to the Group’s surplus funds?**

Options the existing Committee and the previous Committee members have considered are:

- a. Do we donate the funds to National HPS?

*The Dorset Group does not have a close relationship with the national HPS. Our Constitution states that “the Hardy Plant Society, Dorset Group, is registered with the national Hardy Plant Society (HPS) as a body independent of the HPS, save for its*

*registration with the Society.” Consequently, it was felt that not all members would be happy with this choice.*

b. Do we donate it to another horticultural charity?

*Each member would have a personal connection and preference and wouldn't be able to agree.*

c. Do we ask members to vote on specific local charities?

*Again, it would be hard to get consensus on this.*

d. Do we distribute evenly amongst our members?\*

*We believe this to be the fairest way to distribute the funds, and it leaves the decision on whether to donate any of the funds they receive to each of our members.*

Note \* Distribution will be made to all DHPS members who are fully paid up DHPS and HPS members on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. Any member who joined DHPS and national HPS on or after 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 will receive a payment equivalent to their membership fee to both organisations.

**5) If members approve the committee proposal for distribution of funds, when will payments be made?**

We cannot give you a date for this at present, although we don't expect it to be until early next year. It will partly depend on how quickly we can find buyers for assets belonging to the Group. The accounts cannot be finalised and audited until disposal of all our assets is completed.

**6) Why are we only finding out about this now?**

The current committee of 2 cannot continue with the workload involved in planning next year's trips, speaker events, or indeed, any of the other tasks associated with running the DHPS. This should not come as a surprise to anyone. This year, there have been numerous and repeated calls for committee members with only one person coming forward recently (for which we are grateful). However, one is not enough. We need a minimum of 3 Officers and several others in order to operate.

**7) What will happen to various assets such as the projector?**

We will endeavour to sell such items and the money raised will be added to the DHPS bank account.

**8) Can I see the DHPS accounts?**

We have asked our previous Treasurer, Richard Cooke, to audit the accounts and provide a summary. As you will appreciate, we need to honour outstanding payments and commitments, as well as factor in any income from the sale of the projector etc, so this may take a month or two to complete. A summary sheet will be emailed/posted to each member prior to distribution of funds.

**9) Is there anything the HPS can do to help the DHPS?**

Unfortunately not, it just comes down to needing people to run the DHPS.

**10) Could the DHPS amalgamate with another Gardening club?**

We cannot continue as DHPS without being members of national HPS as well, so amalgamation is not possible. There are other local gardening/horticultural groups which you may be interested in joining. We can provide a list of these in due course.

**11) Is it too late to reverse the situation?**

Possibly not, but in order to do so we would need to know there will be several volunteers to serve on the committee, including the officer positions of Chair and Treasurer. One of our members has already provisionally volunteered as Group Secretary.

If you are seriously interested in joining the committee please contact us by 7th November at [dorsethps@gmail.com](mailto:dorsethps@gmail.com)

Having given notice of the EGM that will proceed in any event, but if there is any possibility of DHPS continuing we will do whatever we can to enable that to happen

**12) Can I join another local HPS group and where can I find details about them?**

Yes of course you can. Take a look at the National HPS website and you will find local groups listed.