

Friends of Christchurch Park – Constitution

1. The Group shall be called Friends of Christchurch Park, hereinafter referred to as “the Group”.
2. The objects of the Group shall be to work for the benefit of the public:
 - i) to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Christchurch Park as a place of historic and ecological interest, beauty, tranquillity, rest and recreation;
 - ii) to promote the conservation of the natural plant, animal and bird life in the Park;
 - iii) to encourage appropriate use of the Park through a range of activities;
 - iv) to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the Park;
 - v) to actively engage with the local Council and the Park’s management for the better achievement of these aims.
3. In furtherance of its objects, the Group shall have the power:
 - i) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Group shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities;
 - ii) to buy, lease or otherwise acquire any property necessary for the achievement of the objects of the Group;
 - iii) to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Group;
 - iv) to co-operate with other voluntary bodies, charities and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects, or of similar charitable purposes, and exchange information and advice with them;
 - v) to establish any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
 - vi) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.
4. Membership of the Group shall be open to any individual, household or organisation that supports the objects of the Group and pays the relevant subscription as determined by the AGM. Each individual, household or organisation membership carries one vote.
5. The affairs of the Group shall be controlled by a Committee comprising a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and not more than six other members elected from and by the members of the Group at the AGM. Officers and Committee members shall be elected for one year but may be re-elected. The Committee has the power to co-opt members and to form such sub-committees as it deems necessary from time to time. Four Committee members shall constitute a quorum and the Committee shall meet not less than four times a year.
6. Officers and members of the Committee shall be entitled to reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the Group.
7. The duties of the Committee shall be:
 - i) to control the affairs of the Group and to use its funds in furtherance of the objects;
 - ii) to keep accurate accounts of the Group’s finances, which shall be available for reasonable inspection by members and shall be ~~audited~~ *passed by an independent examiner* and presented to the AGM;
 - iii) to maintain bank accounts in the Group’s name, requiring two named and unrelated officers to act as signatories;
 - iv) to make decisions on the basis of a simple majority vote. The Chair shall be entitled to an additional casting vote in the event of a tied vote.
8. The AGM shall be held not later than 1 April each year to elect officers and members of the Committee, to approve the accounts and to consider other proposals from *members and* the Committee. Notice of the AGM shall be sent to members not later than 2 weeks before the meeting.
9. Any proposal to amend the Constitution shall be sent to members by the committee not later than 2 weeks before the AGM. Approval of an amendment shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.
10. In the event of the dissolution of the Group, any residual funds shall be donated to an organisation having similar aims.