

FRIENDS OF WANSTEAD PARKLANDS CONSTITUTION

1 Name

The name of the Association shall be the 'Friends of Wanstead Parklands', referred to below as 'FWP'. Wanstead Parklands comprise the open spaces to the south of the A12 including Bush Wood, George Green, Wanstead Flats, Wanstead Park and environs.

The principal office of FWP is 14 Aylmer Road, London E11 3AD.

2 Objects

The objects of the FWP shall be:

- to promote the use of Wanstead Parklands for the benefit of the inhabitants of L.B. Redbridge, L.B. Newham, L.B. Waltham Forest, the surrounding area, the wider national and the international community;
- to promote the opportunity for recreation or other leisure time of individuals of all ages in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said community;
- to raise the general public's awareness and understanding of the character and history of Wanstead Parklands.
- to promote for the benefit of the general public the conservation and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Wanstead Parklands, especially its features of historic, architectural and wildlife interest.

3 Powers

To meet these objects, the FWP may:

- (a) raise money and invite and receive contributions to pay for activities;
- (b) promote the interests of Wanstead Parklands at, for example, public meetings and planning inquiries;
- (c) encourage cooperation between local organisations;
- (d) educate public opinion.

4 Liability of members to contribute to the assets of the CIO if it is wound up:

If the CIO is wound up, the members of the CIO have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

5 Membership

- (a) Eligibility and admissions: anyone in sympathy with the FWP objects shall be eligible for membership. The membership shall consist of all those who have paid up subscriptions. Only members shall be eligible to vote at Annual and Special General Meetings. Trustees may require applications for membership to be made in any reasonable way that they decide;
- (b) Duty of members: it is the duty of each member of FWP to exercise his or her powers as a member in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of FWP;
- (c) Termination of membership: Membership of FWP comes to end if:
 - the member dies;

- the member sends a notice of resignation to the charity's trustees;
- any sum of money owed by the member to FWP is not paid in full within six months of its falling due;
- the trustees decide that it is in the best interests of FWP that the member in question should be removed from membership, and pass a resolution to that effect.

Before the trustees take a decision to remove someone from membership of the FWP they must:

- inform the member of the reasons why it is proposed to remove him or her from membership;
- give the member 21 clear day's notice in which to make representations to the trustees;
- at a duly constituted meeting of the trustees, consider whether or not the member should be removed from membership, taking into consideration representations made by the member, and to allow the member, or his representative, to make those representations in person at the meeting if he so chooses.

6 Subscriptions

The subscription year shall date from 1 January to 31 December. Members who join between 1 October and 31 December, and who pay their subscription for that year do not have to pay a subscription in the following year. There shall be two subscription rates: normal rate, for individuals and families; and senior citizen rate, at half the normal rate. The normal rate shall be determined at Annual General Meetings.

7 Charity Trustees (hereby referred to as "the Committee")

The FWP shall be managed by a Committee. It is the duty of the members of the Committee to exercise his or her functions as a trustee in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purpose of FWP. There must be at least three trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the trustees, or appoint a new trustee.

Up to eight trustees shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting by proportional representation using the single transferable vote method. In addition, the Wren Conservation Group and the Friends of Epping Forest may each nominate one member. Additionally any properly constituted community group with similar objects to those of the FWP which joins as a group is entitled to nominate one member to serve on the committee. Committee Members shall hold office for one year. The Committee may co-opt up to five additional members during the year.

The first trustees of the CIO are: Dwight Wood (Chairman), Greer Nicholson and Patricia Moxey.

The Committee shall nominate from amongst itself the Officers of the FWP to include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and such other officers as it may consider necessary.

At Committee Meetings five members shall form a quorum, of which one may be either the Chairman or Vice Chairman. Voting shall be by simple majority. If there should be equal votes, the Chairman may exercise a casting vote. The Committee may appoint sub-committees.

8 Retirement and removal of Trustees

A trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:

- (a) retires by notifying FWP in writing;
- (b) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all of the committee meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
- (c) dies;
- (d) in the written opinion of a registered medical practitioner has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a trustee and may remain so for more than three months;
- (e) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of section 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

9 Finance

Funds shall be deposited in the name of the FWP with a recognised clearing bank, building society, or in a National Girobank or National Savings Bank account.

All cheques shall be signed by two of the following - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Treasurer shall present financial statements for the previous subscription year to each Annual General Meeting.

10 Annual General Meeting

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- (a) receive a report from the Trustees describing the activities of the FWP in the previous year;
- (b) receive financial statements for the previous year;
- (c) elect Committee members;
- (d) consider amendments to the constitution;
- (e) determine subscription rates;
- (f) discuss other matters of interest to the FWP.

The timetable for arranging the Annual General Meeting shall be as follows:

- (i) six weeks in advance of the date of the AGM the Secretary shall notify the membership of the date and venue and call for nominations, constitutional amendments and suggestions of items for discussion at the meeting. Members wishing to nominate members for election to the Committee, propose changes to the constitution or suggest items for discussion shall notify the Secretary in writing, supported by a second member, and where nominating someone for election to the Committee forward to the Secretary the written consent of the nominees within 2 weeks of the date on the notification;
- (ii) two weeks in advance of the date of the AGM, the Secretary shall give all members an agenda, nominations for Committee members, proposed amendments to the Constitution and any other material considered by the Committee to be relevant;
- (iii) the AGM shall take place during February.

A quorum shall be 20 members. If fewer attend, another meeting must be called by the Committee. Voting shall be generally by simple majority, although a two-thirds majority shall be required for changes to the Constitution. In the event of equal votes, the Chairman may exercise a casting vote. Voting shall be normally by show of hands, although a poll may be taken at the discretion of the Chairman or the request of ten members present. A poll demanded on the election of a person to chair the meeting or on a question of adjournment must be taken immediately. A poll on any other matter shall be taken, and the result of the poll shall be announced, in such manner as the chair of the meeting shall decide, but no later than within 30 days of the demand of the poll. A poll may be taken: a) at the meeting at which it was demanded, b) at some other time and place specified by the chair, or c) through the use of postal or electronic communications. Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is cast and the decision of the chair of the meeting shall be final.

Every member has one vote.

11 Special General Meeting

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, a Special General Meeting may be called for any purpose, by the

Committee or by 25 members acting together. The arrangements for calling and voting at a Special General Meeting shall be generally the same as those for an Annual General Meeting. In particular, the Secretary shall give all members at least 2 week's notice of the meeting. If members wish to call a Special General Meeting, they shall notify the Secretary in writing at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, with details of its purpose. A quorum shall be 20 members.

12 Dissolution

A proposal to dissolve the FWP may only be made at a Special General Meeting summoned for this purpose. The notice calling the Meeting shall:

- (a) provide for members unable to attend to vote by post;
- (b) indicate which organisation(s) with objects close to the FWP shall receive the FWP assets;

The dissolution must be supported by at least 75% of the votes cast.

13 Interpretations and Omissions

Should any matter arise not provided for by these rules, or should there be any doubt about their interpretations, the decision of the Committee shall be final.