

FRIENDS OF WANSTEAD PARKLANDS.

DRAFT CONSTITUTION (FINAL DRAFT)

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.

2 Objects

The objects of the FWP shall be to encourage the preservation and, where possible, the improvement of Wanstead Parklands.

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 Membership

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.

5 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.

6 The Committee

The FWP shall be managed by a Committee. Up to eight members 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. Committee Members shall hold office for one year. The Committee may co-opt up to five additional members.

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.

7 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 an audited financial statement for the previous subscription year to each Annual General Meeting.

8 Annual General Meeting

The purpose of the Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- (a) receive a report from the Chairman describing the activities of the FWP in the previous year;
- (b) receive an audited financial statement for the previous year;
- (c) elect Committee members;
- (d) appoint auditors;

- (e) consider amendments to the constitution;
- (f) determine subscription rates;
- (g) 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 ballot may be taken at the discretion of the Chairman or the request of ten members present.

9 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 weeks 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.

10 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.

11 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.