



FR I E N D S O F V I C T O R I A P A R K  
C O N S T I T U T I O N 2020

# CONSTITUTION 2020

## 1 Name

The name of the group shall be “The Friends of Victoria Park” hereinafter referred to as the Association.

## 2 Objects

The objects of the Association shall be to advance the education and promote the welfare of the public by supporting, and assisting, in furthering the charitable activities of Victoria Park, and in furtherance thereof but not otherwise the Association shall seek:

- a) to stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history, wildlife, character and environment of Victoria Park and its surroundings;
- b) to seek, by lawful and democratic means, to protect the green space and biodiversity of the Park, for its environmental, social, educational and health benefits;
- c) to encourage the preservation of features of general public amenity or historic interest,
- d) to promote high standards of planning, design, maintenance and management affecting Victoria Park,
- e) to preserve and protect public access to all areas of Victoria Park.

## 3 Powers

In furtherance of the above objects, the Association may:

- a) employ and pay any person or persons to supervise, organise and carry on the work of the Association;
- b) engage and pay fees to professionals and technical advisors and/or consultants to assist in the work of the Association;
- c) work in liaison with representatives of voluntary organisations, Government departments, local and other statutory authorities and individuals;

- d) take out membership of such organisations as are considered to be in the interest of and compatible with the objects of the Association;
- e) promote and carry out or assist in promoting research survey investigation and make results available to their members and publish if appropriate, as decided by the Management Committee.
- f) arrange and provide for or join in arranging activities/events as determined by the management that would achieve our objects as outlined in Article 2;
- g) collect and disseminate information on all matters affecting the objects and exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects whether in this country or overseas;
- h) cause to be written and printed and stored on electronic/digital systems or otherwise, reproduced and circulated (including by social media) such papers, books, periodicals or other documents as shall further the objects;
- i) subject to such consents as may be required by law, borrow or raise money for the objects and accept gifts in such terms and on such securities as shall be deemed to be necessary;
- j) raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons provided that the Association does not undertake to undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said object;
- k) invest the monies of the Association not immediately required for the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law;
- l) do all other lawful things as necessary for the attainments of the objects.

#### **4 Membership and Subscriptions**

- a) Membership of the Association shall be open to all interested persons on completion of a registration form in such form as the Management Committee may require and on payment of any subscription which may be determined from time to time at a General Meeting.
- b) Societies and other Associations interested in the objects and activities may affiliate on such payment as may be determined by a General Meeting. Such organisations shall have one vote.

- c) The Management Committee shall have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any individual or organisation provided the individual concerned or the individual representing such organisation shall have the right to appeal to the Management Committee before a final decision is made.
- d) No member of the Association shall become an employee of the Association.

## **5 Management**

- a) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Management Committee consisting of Convener, Vice-Convener, Secretary, Treasurer, and up to five members.
- b) The Convener, Vice-Convener, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting and the term of office shall not exceed five consecutive years in the same role. However, further terms of office may be permissible if agreed by a subsequent E.G.M or A.G.M at the discretion of the members.
- c) The Management Committee members shall be elected annually at the A.G.M with no limit to their term on the management committee.
- d) The Management Committee shall have powers to co-opt members to serve on the Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.
- e) The quorum for meetings of the Management Committee shall be three members of the committee present in person.
- f) Every member of the committee shall have one vote which (whether on a show of hands; by secret ballot, or electronically, e.g. via email) must be given personally.
- g) In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a ballot, the chairperson of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he/she may have.

## **6 Meetings of the Association**

- a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held annually between and at least 4 weeks' notice of such meeting shall be given by the Secretary who shall send copies of the agenda to full members. The business to be conducted at the Annual General Meeting shall include consideration of the Annual Report to be submitted by the Convener, the Treasurer's Annual Account and the election of Office Bearers and Committee Members. Additional items for consideration may be raised by any full member giving not less than one week of written notice or at the Convener's discretion at the meeting itself.

- b) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be summoned at the request of any 10 full members. Notice of such a meeting shall be sent by the Secretary to all full members not less than 4 weeks before the date of the meeting.
- c) The quorum for General Meetings shall be ten percent of full members present in person.
- d) Every full member shall have one vote which (whether on a show of hands or on a secret ballot or electronically, e.g. via email) must be given personally.
- e) In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a ballot, the chairperson of the meeting shall be entitled to a casting vote in addition to any other vote he/she may have.

## **7 Finance**

- a) The funds of the Association shall be managed as the Management Committee direct.
- b) The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Association.
- c) A Bank Account shall be opened in the name of the Association with such Bank as the Management Committee shall decide. The Management Committee shall authorise named members of the Management Committee to sign cheques on behalf of the Association. All cheques must be signed by not less than two out of four authorised signatories.
- d) The annual accounts shall be subject to an internal audit in advance of being presented at the Annual General Meeting.
- e) All moneys raised by or on behalf of the Association shall be applied to further the objects of the Association and for no other purpose.

## **8 Property**

The title to all property, heritable and moveable which may be acquired by or on behalf of the Association shall be vested in the names of the Convener, the Secretary and the Treasurer for the time being ex officio.

## **9 Amendment of Constitution**

This Constitution may be approved or amended at an Annual General Meeting or at any Extraordinary General Meeting specifically called for that purpose, with the support of two-thirds of the full members present and voting provided 3 weeks notice has been given to the Secretary of the proposed amendment. The notice of such meeting shall state the terms of the proposed amendment to the Constitution. Members will be notified within 1 week of proposed changes to the Constitution - 2 weeks prior to the AGM. The quorum for such a meeting will be ten percent of the full membership. No alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be recognised by the Inland Revenue.

## **10 Application of Funds**

- a) Membership or affiliation will not entitle any person, Society or group to any share in the income or assets of the Association which shall be expended only on the objects set out in Article 2 of the Constitution.
  
- b) If the Association is wound up any funds remaining after liabilities have been met shall be given or transferred to such other charitable organisations or organisations having objects similar to the objects of the Association as the Management Committee may determine.

This Constitution was agreed and accepted on 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Signed by Convener

Co-Convenor

Secretary

Treasurer

