

The Friends of Highfield Orchard

CONSTITUTION

AIMS and OBJECTIVES: To protect and nurture the fruit trees of Highfield Road Community Orchard, and to promote local community enjoyment and involvement in the Orchard's long-term health and development.

Name

The group shall be known as 'The Friends of Highfield Orchard', called 'the group' in these rules.

Membership policy

Membership shall be open to any person willing to help with any of our projects. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of disability, age, race, politics, religion, sexual orientation, gender or nationality.

Officers

The group shall consist of:

- A Committee comprising at least 3 officers, in the following roles:

Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

- Associate membership

Deputy Chair

Deputy Treasurer

Deputy Secretary

Plus – all other members of the Highfield Road Community Orchard Volunteer Group

The group's Committee Officers shall be over 18 years of age and shall be elected by the members of the group at the Annual General Meeting. Officers shall be elected to serve for one year.

In the event of selected members leaving the group, other members may be co-opted by the group on the basis of a majority vote.

Other members may be appointed to hold or undertake particular responsibilities within the group, as necessary (eg. fundraising, consultation exercises etc)

Associate membership shall be available to anyone attending meetings of the group, attending events organised by the group and anyone expressing an interest to join.

The Committee reserve the right to withdraw membership from anyone abusing the group, following consultation with that member.

Powers

To further the objectives the Committee may exercise the following powers:

- a) To set up a bank account in the name of the group/or make arrangements to share the bank account of Stockport Greenspace itself.
- b) To raise funds and receive contributions, donations and similar, provided that the group shall not undertake any permanent trading activity.
- c) To produce leaflets / posters to promote the group's activities
- d) To hold meetings, and one annual general meeting per year.
- e) To pay the necessary expenses involved in the running of the group.

Meetings

Meetings will be held as required but with a minimum of once every 2 months.

The Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of the group shall be held yearly. The purpose of the Annual General Meeting will be as follows:

- a) To elect the Committee officers.
- b) Receive the group's annual report.
- c) Receive the annual report of the statement of accounts.
- d) Review the aims and objectives of the group.

All members and associate members shall be notified of the Annual General Meeting not less than twenty-one days before the meeting and an agenda will be circulated.

Fees

Membership fees are not applicable

Finances

- a) Any money raised shall be used to further the aims of the group and for no other purpose.
- b) A decision will be made whether to open a bank account for the group, or to share a bank account with another group established under Stockport Greenspace, or to share the Stockport Greenspace bank account.
- c) The Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary will be the signatories to manage the affairs of the group (with two out of three required to sign any cheque/authorise withdrawal from a shared bank account)
- d) A simple written note of the group's financial position will be produced and available at any time.
- e) No member shall derive any financial benefit from the group, except for payment of reasonable expenses.
- f) No money shall be paid out in the name of the group without a receipt being presented.

Amendments to the constitution

If amendments to the Constitution are necessary, members will be informed in writing and given the opportunity to consider and vote on the amendments. The amendments will only be made if there is a two-thirds majority in favour by members present and voting.

Dissolution

If the Committee by a simple majority deem it advisable to dissolve the group, it shall call a meeting of all the members of the group giving not less than twenty one days notice. If such decision is confirmed by the majority of those present, then the disposal of all assets of the group will be agreed at this meeting after proper debate.

This Constitution was adopted by The Highfield Road Community Orchard Volunteer Group on 2nd September 2021

Signed:..... [redacted] [redacted] - Chair

Signed [redacted] [redacted] - Secretary