

The Friends of High Lane Park Constitution

Adopted on the eleventh day of November 2003

The name of the group is Friends of High Lane Parks "the group" in this constitution.

Aim

To provide opportunities for community members to improve and promote the use of, awareness of and care of facilities within the High Lane Parks in order to make them welcoming, safe enjoyable environments for all.

Objectives

- To work in partnership with Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council or other interested parties, to manage and generally look after the High Lane Parks in a manner which will enhance their value to the community.
- To make changes which will be of benefit to the residents visiting the parks and to the flora and fauna living in them.
- To make special efforts to encourage children from the local primary schools and other youth groups to take an interest in the parks; to help them understand their value in the environment and to the community and to show them ways in which management can enhance this, in the belief that they may continue the work of "The Friends" in the future.

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

- a) To set up a bank account in the name of the group.
- b) To raise funds and receive contributions, donations and otherwise, provided that the group shall not undertake and permanent trading activity.
- c) To levy subscriptions / membership fees.
- d) To produce leaflets / posters to publicise the groups activities.
- e) To hold meetings.
- f) To pay necessary expenses involved in the running of the group.

Membership of the group

Membership will be free and open to everyone and is not restricted to residents of High Lane.

Meetings

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis.

Officers

The group shall elect a committee consisting of not less than 5 members. They shall be elected to serve for 1 year. From amongst the Committee a chairperson, a secretary and a treasurer will be elected.

Other members may be appointed to hold / undertake particular responsibilities within the group. eg. fund-raising.

Finances

- a) Any money raised shall be used to further the aims of the group and for no other purpose.
- b) A bank account will be opened in the name of the group at the Alliance and Leicester Building Society.
- c) The group shall decide the signatories to any account set up in the name of the group (two out of three signatories to sign any cheque).
- d) A simple written note of the groups' financial position will from time to time be produced and available at meetings of the committee.
- e) No member shall derive any financial benefit from the group, except for payment of reasonable expenses.
- f) No money will be paid out in the name of the group without a receipt being presented.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the group shall be held every year, on the second Tuesday of September. All members shall be notified not less than 14 days before the meeting and an agenda will be circulated.

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 amendments. The amendments will only be made if there is a two-thirds majority vote of all members.

Liability

- a) As owner of the parks Stockport M.B.C. must be consulted about, and approve, any work or activity carried out.
- b) Any member who carries out an agreed activity on behalf of the group will not be liable personally for debts and will be entitled to be indemnified from the funds, provided no payments shall be made, or obligations entered into, which have not been authorised by the committee.
- c) The committee will ensure that, while engaged on legitimate activities on behalf of the group, volunteers have adequate accident and third party liability cover.

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 (who have the power to vote) giving not less than 14 days notice. If such a decision is confirmed by a majority of those present then all the assets of the group shall be transferred to the "High Lane Residents Association".

Signed..... (Chair) (Treasurer)

Date.....