

Friends of Birkenhead Park Constitution

Preamble:

The Group, known as 'Friends of Birkenhead Park' was formed in April 1976, as a Conservation Group. It is now recognised by Wirral Borough Council, and other bodies, as an official Group for the conservation of Birkenhead Park.

It was decided at the Annual General Meeting of 1985 (27th June) that a Constitution should be drafted for submission and adoption at the AGM in March 1986 to formalise the Group's activities. The Constitution was revised updated and adopted at the AGM of April 16th 2011.

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1. Name: The name of the Group shall be 'Friends of Birkenhead Park.'

 2. Objects: The objects of the Group are:
 - A. To conserve and protect the area currently known as The Birkenhead Park Conservation Area in its original concept and design by Sir Joseph Paxton, bearing in mind the changes needed in the 21st century and beyond.
 - B. To consider all plans and planning applications appertaining to the Park and its periphery submitted to the Friends, and pass comments thereon to the relevant authority.
 - C. To work in partnership with the staff of the Park to promote and encourage the proper use of the Park and its periphery for the benefit of the general public and of specific groups such as sports clubs, schools and other educational establishments, arts societies, the elderly and people with disability or mental health concerns.
 - D. To promote and encourage Volunteering in the Park on the part of members of the local community; including conservation, leading walks for health, understanding of the Park's history, its plant and wildlife heritage, the organisation and hosting of cultural events and the hosting and marshalling of community events.
 - E. To discourage and report any misuses and unlawful activities taking place in the Park.
 - F. To be represented in any enquiry or official meeting on matters relating to the Park and its periphery.
 - G. To publicise and reinforce the national and international significance of Birkenhead Park and the public parks movement.
 - H. To encourage wider membership.

 3. Membership: Membership shall be open to the general public who are

in general agreement with the Friends' aims.

The renewable annual subscription shall be paid to the Treasurer, from whom an official receipt shall be obtained.

The annual subscription rates shall be set by the committee, with a discretionary rate where applicable.

Members are entitled to receive Notice of AGMs and be eligible to vote, provided their subscriptions are not in arrears.

A list of members shall be kept by the Treasurer and Secretary, the Treasurer notifying the Secretary of all changes.

4. Management:

a. The Friends shall be managed by a committee of no more than nine members, including the designated officers, elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.

b. The officers shall consist of the following:

President
Chair
Vice-Chair
Treasurer
Secretary.

c. The Committee shall have the power to invite representatives of sports clubs, the elected councillors of the area and officers of WBC to meetings of the Committee.

5. General Meetings

General Meetings shall be held as follows:

a. An Annual General Meeting shall be held before the end of May in each year to elect Officers, as in 4b above, Vice-Presidents, and Committee Members.

In addition it shall elect an auditor for the ensuing year and shall receive audited accounts and balance sheet for the financial year ending the previous 31st December.

At least 14 days' notice, in writing, shall be given to members.

b. There shall be four General Meetings, preferably held in February, May, September and December, which shall serve as a forum to review progress in achieving the Friends' aims.

c. The Secretary will arrange the Agenda with the Chair, for all meetings.

6. Committee:

The Committee shall be responsible for:

A. The formulation of policy.

B. The consideration of planning applications received.

- C. The filling of vacancies as they arise on the Committee.
- D. The sending of Newsletters to members, and reporting back to General Meetings.
- E. The Committee shall have power to invest the funds of the Friends and to form sub-committees from time to time for particular purposes.
- F. The Committee shall meet from time to time, as thought necessary by the Officers.
- G. Five members shall form a quorum for decision-making purposes.

7. General:

- A. The President shall preside at the Annual General Meeting or, in his/her absence, one of the Vice-Presidents.
- B. The AGM will receive a report from the Chair on all the year's activities, and audited accounts from the Treasurer.
- C. All other meetings shall be chaired by the Chair or, in his/her absence, the Vice-Chair, or in his/her absence, by any member chosen by the meeting.

8. Amendments: No amendments may be made to this Constitution save by a two-thirds majority vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Friends. Such amendments, if passed, to operate from the date of the AGM.

9. Special General Meetings: An Extraordinary General Meeting (or Special Meeting) shall be held whenever the Committee so decides – or as soon as practicable after receipt by the Secretary of a requisition signed by not less than 12 members of the Friends, specifying the purpose thereof.

No other business shall be transacted thereat other than that for which the meeting was requested.

Fourteen days' notice of such meetings shall be given to each subscribing member.