

The Friends of Bernards Heath

Name

1. The Society shall be called “the Friends of Bernards Heath”.

Objects

2. The Objects of the Society shall be:-
 - (a) To protect all the open space at Bernards Heath (shown on the attached plan) from development or encroachment and to secure its use by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.
 - (b) To protect and enhance the amenity of Bernards Heath and the surrounding area (and without prejudice to the generality of such an object, to encourage the St Albans District Council and Hertfordshire County Council to set up a management committee involving the Society and the community of Bernards Heath to manage the open space) and to promote its fullest enjoyment by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood.

And in pursuance of these objects (but without prejudice to the generality thereof) to create and maintain public interest in Bernards Heath and advise and assist any person or body on any matter relating thereto.

Membership and Subscriptions

3. The Society shall consist of such individuals as accept the objects of the Society and have paid the current appropriate subscription.
4. The Executive Committee (hereinafter called the Committee) shall have the right:-
 - (a) to approve or reject applications for membership, and
 - (b) for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any individual provided that the individual member concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Annual General Meeting before a final decision is made.
5. The annual rate of subscription for members shall be as the Committee may from time to time determine.

General Meetings

6. A General Meeting of members of the Society may be summoned at any time:
 - (a) by the Chairman of the Committee; or
 - (b) by not less than 5 members of the Committee
7. Notice of such a General Meeting, stating the purpose of the meeting and the text of any motion to be moved thereat, shall be given to all members of the society not less than 14 days before the date of the meeting. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any member shall not invalidate any proceedings at any meeting of the Society.
8. Every member shall be entitled to one vote at a General Meeting of the Society and to speak thereat.

- 9.
- (a) The Chairman of the Committee , failing whom a member of the Committee chosen by those present , shall preside at a General Meeting of the Society
 - (b) Voting at a General Meeting shall be by a show of hands unless a ballot of those present is demanded by the person presiding at the meeting or any 6 members of the Society who are present.
 - (c) There shall be a quorum at a General Meeting when not less than 10 persons are present who are members of the Society.
 - (d) Every matter shall be determined by the majority of those members present and voting on the question. In the case of equality of votes the person presiding shall have a second or casting vote.

Annual General Meeting

10. There shall be an Annual General Meeting of members of the Society, which shall be held at a time and place to be fixed by the Committee
11. The functions of the Annual General Meeting shall be:
- (a) to receive the report and statement of accounts for the preceding financial year;
 - (b) to elect the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee and appoint the Auditor for the ensuing year;
 - (c) to consider and vote on any motion which has been duly submitted to the meeting
12. Notice of the date appointed for the Annual General Meeting shall be published to the members not less than one calendar month before that date.
13. Motions relating to the constitution must be circulated to all members not less than 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting.

Motions at the Annual General Meeting

14. No motion other than a motion relating to the adoption of the report and statement of accounts or other formal business shall be moved at the Annual General Meeting unless:-
- (a) notice in writing signed by the member who proposes to move it shall have been received by the Secretary not less than 14 days before the date appointed for the meeting, or
 - (b) it is moved on behalf of the Committee, or
 - (c) the person presiding is satisfied that it is desirable that such a motion should be moved
15. Nominations for election to any office or to the Committee, proposed and seconded in writing by members of the Society, and bearing the written consent of the nominee, shall be received by the Secretary 2 clear days before the Annual General Meeting or may be received at the Annual General Meeting if the nominee is present at the meeting. Persons elected shall hold office until the end of the following Annual General Meeting
16. With the exception of the first committee for the Society, any person standing for election must have been a member of the Society for at least three months.

Executive Committee

17. The Committee shall consist of the Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and up to nine individual members elected at the Annual General Meeting.
18. The elected members of the Committee may co-opt up to two other members, to serve until the next Annual General Meeting. Co-opted members must be members of the Society
19. The Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies in their numbers and any person so appointed to the Committee shall retire immediately before the next Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election.
20. The Committee shall meet at least four times in every year. Five members shall form a quorum.
21. The functions of the Committee shall be:
 - (a) to manage the affairs of the Society;
 - (b) to appoint such subcommittees for such purposes and with such powers as it shall think fit;
22. If a member of the Committee is absent for two consecutive meetings of the Committee he or she shall, unless the absence was due to some good reason approved by the Committee, cease to be a member of the Committee.

Dissolution

23. If the Committee by a simple majority decides at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Society who have the power to vote, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the motion to be proposed thereat) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a simple majority of those present and voting at such meeting the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the Committee may determine.

Alteration of the rules

24. These rules shall not be altered except at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. No alteration of Clause 1, 2, 22 or 23 shall be valid until the Charity Commission has indicated that it does not object to the alteration.