

PRIORY PARK FRIENDS' GROUP CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the group shall be "Priory Park Friends' Group"

2. **Aims:**

- To protect and enhance the Park as an open, green space for the enjoyment of all.
- To promote the proper maintenance of the Park.
- To protect trees, grass, vegetation, birds and other wildlife.
- To guard against and discourage any activity that would damage or otherwise harm the Park or spoil the enjoyment of other Park users
- To guard against unwarranted urbanisation of the Park.

These aims to be realised by undertaking the following objectives:

- Establishing positive links with the Park Managers.
- Lobbying Huntingdonshire District Council on behalf of Park users
- Undertaking appropriate conservation work in conjunction with the Council
- Requesting that the Council keep the group informed, well in advance, of any planning or development issues that may affect the Park
- Liaising with and subscribing to other groups/charities with similar aims
- Raising and receiving funds from any person or organisation whether by subscription or otherwise provided that the group shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for its objectives.
- Generating appropriate publicity to keep members and Park users informed.

3. **Membership:**

Membership shall be open to anyone who is interested in furthering the aims and objectives of the group. A minimum subscription charge of £1 will be requested.

4. **Executive Committee:**

- a. This shall consist of the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and two other elected members. They shall resign their positions each year and be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.
- b. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill any casual vacancies which may occur among members of the Executive Committee.
- c. The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt further members who shall attend in an advisory capacity for a specified period of time and have the right to vote in committee.
- d. Nominations for the Executive Committee must be made in writing to the Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting and must have the consent of the nominee and be supported by a seconder.
- e. If nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a paper ballot will take place. In the event of equality in the number of votes cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.
- f. The quorum for Committee Meetings shall be three.
- g. The Committee shall meet bi-monthly, unless otherwise requested by a Committee Member, and the Secretary shall give members at least seven days' notice thereof.
- h. The Committee must act with full corporate responsibility at all times.

5. Sub-Committees:

The Executive Committee may constitute such Sub-Committees from time to time as shall be considered necessary to further the objects of the group.

Such Sub-Committees shall always report back to the Executive Committee. No Sub-Committee shall authorise payment of any funds held by the group, unless especially instructed to do so.

6. Annual General Meeting:

The quorum at an AGM or EGM shall be twenty.

7. Declaration of Interest:

It shall be the duty of every officer or member of the Executive Committee or Sub-Committee, or group member, who is in any way directly or indirectly interested professionally or financially in any item discussed at any meeting at which he or she is present, to declare such an interest and to take no further part in the proceedings or in voting on that item, except by invitation of the Chairman.

8. Administration of Funds:

The Executive Committee shall pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the group out of any funds held by the group.

After the payment of such expenses, and the setting aside of reserves of such sums as may be deemed expedient, any remaining funds shall be applied to the Executive Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the group.

9. Amendments to the Constitution:

Alterations to this constitution shall receive the assent of two-thirds of the members present by voting at the Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting. The Secretary must receive a resolution for the alteration of the constitution at least twenty-one days before the meeting at which such resolution is to be brought. At least fourteen days' notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the proposed alteration.

10. Winding Up:

The group may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the group is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting, this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the meeting is given.

In the event of the dissolution of the group, any available funds shall be transferred to such one or more institutions with objects similar to those herein before declared. This institution shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the meeting at which the decision to dissolve the group is confirmed.