

SMALL CHARITY CONSTITUTION

Suitable for small charities with an annual income under £5,000 that don't own a building or employ people and do not intend to register with the Charity Commission.

1 NAME

The charity's name is **The Friends of Uddens and Cannon Hill Woodlands**

2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:-

To protect and improve Uddens and Cannon Hill Woodlands for the benefit of wildlife and the local community.

3 TRUSTEES

The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
- (4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5 MEMBERSHIP

The charity shall have a membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over, can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees, membership lasts for **1 year** and may be renewed. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with **28** days notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (2) There must be at least 6 members present at the AGM.
- (3) Every member has one vote.
- (4) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (5) Any member may stand for election as a trustee **following 9 months of membership. They must be proposed and seconded by 2 existing members who also have a minimum of 9 months membership. Potential candidates must complete an "application to stand as a trustee form" which should include a brief personal resume. Completed forms must be returned to an officer of the charity at least 14 days prior to the AGM.**
- (6) Members shall elect between 3 and **12** trustees to serve for the next **3 years**. They will retire at the AGM of **their 3rd year** but may stand for re-election. ***See Note 6.6**

7 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

- (1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, **vice chair**, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
- (2) At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (4) During the year, the trustees may appoint up to **3** additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.
- (5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8 MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
- (3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
- (4) Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 trustees.

9 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

- (1) **Winding up** - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.
- (2) **Changes to the Constitution** - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.
- (3) **General Meeting** - called on written request from a majority of members.
- (4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

***Note 6.6 –**

To allow for continuity and democracy, the Trustees at the first AGM (18th April 2013) agreed 1/3 of the trustees would stand down in each of the following 3 years.

At the next meeting of the Trustees, lots would be drawn to decide who would be required to stand down at the AGM's 2014 – 2016.

10 SETTING UP THE CHARITY

This constitution was adopted on 23rd May 2012 by the people whose signatures appear below. They are the first members of the charity and will be the trustees until the AGM, which must be held within one year of this date.

Signed

Print name and address

_____	Michael Gorse _____
_____	Kevin Healy _____
_____	Jeffery Maple _____
_____	Chris Gibb _____
_____	Janet Healy _____
_____	Mark Lindsell _____
_____	Andy Hartstone _____
_____	Stephanie Thorneycroft _____
_____	James Burbidge _____
_____	Luanne Burbidge _____
_____	Lin White _____
_____	Sarah Hartstone _____