

Constitution of the group

1) Name

The name of the group shall be Beckfield Apiary, hereafter referred to as the Group.

2) OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Group shall be:

- To improve the area known as South Manchester for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area;
- To encourage the goodwill and involvement of the wider community;
- To foster community spirit and encourage civic pride.
- To educate and promote the wider community in the need to sustain and improve the number of honey bee colonies in the area.
- To support families, friends and businesses in adopting environmentally friendly practice's, who discourage and harm wildlife and its natural habitat.

3) POWERS

In furtherance of the objects, but not otherwise, the Management Committee may exercise the power to:

- I. Promote the health and wellbeing of the residents of the area and to work together as residents irrespective of age, sex, ethnicity, ability, religion or political view and all other protected characteristics of the equality act.
- II. Promote environmental improvement and conservation by educating, encouraging and assisting the local population in environmental practice, working in partnership with similar groups and organisations.
- III. Invite and receive contributions and raise funds where appropriate, to finance the work of the Group, and to open a bank account to manage such funds.
- IV. Publicise and promote the work of the Group and organise meetings, training courses, events or seminars etc.
- V. Work with groups of a similar nature and exchange information, advice and knowledge with them, including cooperation with other voluntary bodies, charities, statutory and non-statutory organisations.
- VI. Employ staff and volunteers as necessary to conduct activities to meet the objectives.
- VII. Take any form of action that is lawful, which is necessary to achieve the objects of the Group.

4) MEMBERSHIP

- I. Membership shall be open to anyone who has an interest in assisting the Group to achieve its aim and is willing to adhere to the rules of the Group.
- II. Where it is considered membership would be detrimental to the aims and activities of the Group, the Management Committee shall have the power to refuse membership, or may terminate or suspend the membership of any member by resolution passed at a meeting. Members shall have the right to appeal via an independent adjudicator determined by mutual agreement of the management committee.
- III. Any member of the association may resign from his/her membership by providing the Secretary with written notice.

5) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Group shall be administered by a management committee of no less than three people and an additional 12 members can join the committee and not totalling more than fifteen people, who must be at least 18 years of age. Members will be elected for a period of up to one year, to work with the management committee but may be re-elected at the Group's AGM.

6) OFFICERS

The Group shall have a committee consisting of:

The Apiary Manager

The Treasurer

The Secretary

and any additional officers the Group deems necessary at the meeting required to carry out the required activities.

7) MEETINGS

- I. The committee shall meet at least once a month. Meetings shall enable the Group to discuss actions and monitor progress to date, and to consider future developments.
- II. All members shall be given at least fourteen (14) days' notice of when a meeting is due to take place, unless it is deemed as an emergency.
- III. Two-thirds of committee members must be present in order for a meeting to take place.
- IV. It shall be the responsibility of the Apiary Manager to chair all meetings or a designated deputy in his/her absence. All meetings must be minuted and accessible to interested parties.
- V. The AGM shall take place every January to prepare for the upcoming season. At least fourteen (14) days' notice must be given before the meeting takes place.
- VI. All members are entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote, the Apiary Manger or an appointed deputy shall make the final decision.

8) FINANCE

- I. Any money acquired by the Group, including donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Management Committee in the name of the Group. All funds must be applied to the objects of the Group and for no other purpose.
- II. Bank accounts shall be opened in the name of the Group. Any deeds, cheques etc relating to the Group's bank account shall be signed by at least two of the following management committee members: Apiary Manager; Treasurer; Secretary.
- III. Any income/expenditure shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer but approved my the Apiary Manager who will be accountable to ensure funds are utilised effectively and that the Group stays within budget.
- IV. Official accounts shall be maintained, and will be examined annually by an independent accountant who is not a member of the Group. An annual financial report shall be presented at the AGM. The Group's accounting year shall run from 01 April to 31 March.

9) ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a majority vote at a special general meeting and approved by the Apiary Manager.

Amendments to this constitution or dissolution of the Group must be conveyed to the Secretary formally in writing. The Secretary and other officers shall then decide on the date of a special general meeting to discuss such proposals, giving members at least four weeks (28 days) notice.

10) DISSOLUTION

(i) The Group may be dissolved if deemed necessary by management committee and the additional committee members in a majority vote at a special meeting. Any assets or remaining funds after debts have been paid shall be returned to their providers or transferred to local charities or similar groups at the discretion of the Management Committee.

This constitution was adopted at an AGM:

Signed: Apiary Manager

Signed: Treasurer

Signed: Secretary

Signed: Member

Signed: Member