



Constitution of the Friends of Midsummer Common

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be the Friends of Midsummer Common (hereafter called FoMC).

2. Purpose

The primary purpose of FoMC is to promote the good management, environment and sustainable development of Midsummer Common including the Community Orchard for the public benefit.

3. Aims and Objectives

FoMC aims to promote the good management of Midsummer Common in two ways. The first is about the present with a focus on 4 objectives:

1. to research the history of Midsummer Common and its moulding legislation and to disseminate this information to interested parties;
2. to encourage the use and enjoyment of Midsummer Common and its facilities by members of the public;
3. to discourage the spoliation or inappropriate use of Midsummer Common by individuals or organisations; and
4. to seek compliance with the laws governing the use, development and management of Midsummer Common.

The second is about the immediate future with a focus on 2 further objectives:

5. to work with the City Council and other stakeholders to prepare and adopt management plans for Midsummer Common and ensure their coordinated implementation; and
6. to work with the City Council and other stakeholders in preparing the programme of events on the Common and ensure they cause minimal nuisance to local residents and minimal damage to the Common.

FoMC also aims to improve the condition of Midsummer Common by volunteers carrying out environmental works agreed with the Council. It sets itself 2 final objectives in this area:

7. to manage under Council licence the Community Orchard that FoMC created and continues to maintain with the help of volunteers; and
8. to explore and develop other areas on the Common for the purposes of habitat diversity and landscape enhancement.

4. Membership

Membership shall be open to Cambridge residents who are interested in furthering the objectives of FoMC. It is the policy of FoMC to welcome and treat all members and volunteers fairly and equally regardless of their sex, sexual orientation, marital status, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, religion, age or disability. The Secretary shall keep an up-to-date list of members. Every member will pay a joining fee set by the Committee and invited to pay any annual subscription agreed at the preceding Annual General Meeting.

5. Honorary Officers

At the Annual General Meeting, FoMC shall elect from its members a Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer who shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after their election but shall be eligible for re-election. Should one of these officers leave during the year, the Committee may appoint a temporary replacement until the next Annual General Meeting.

6. Committee

The policy and general management of the affairs of FoMC shall be directed by a Committee comprising the honorary officers and up to five other elected members. The other members may serve for 3 years, but will be eligible for re-election by the Committee for one or more three year terms. The Committee may co-opt additional members and replacements for those who leave on a temporary basis. The Committee shall meet not less than three times per year under the direction of the chairperson. Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. The Secretary shall take minutes and make them available to all members.

7. Orchard Manager.

The Committee shall appoint an individual to serve as manager of the Community Orchard. The manager will supervise works carried out by volunteers in accordance with the Council licence and health and safety legislation. The manager will be responsible for spending within the budget given by the treasurer.

8. General Meetings

Once in each calendar year, an Annual General Meeting shall be held at such a time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) and place as the Committee shall determine. At this annual meeting the honorary Officers and members of the Committee shall be elected by simple majority. The Committee may convene a Special General Meeting for a specified purpose. For all such meetings, 21 days notice shall be given to the members.

9. Finance

The funds of FoMC shall be applied in furtherance of its objectives. All payments shall be authorised by two honorary officers and no payment shall be made to any members except for the reimbursement of reasonable out of pocket expenses. The Treasurer shall open a bank account, keep proper accounts, and prepare an annual statement which shall be examined by an independent examiner, who is reasonably believed by the Committee to have the requisite ability and practical experience, and submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

10. Alteration to the Constitution

No alteration or addition to this constitution shall be made except at a General Meeting and agreed by not less than two thirds of the members present.

11. Dissolution

FoMC may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose. Such a resolution shall give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of FoMC. To the extent possible, the disposal of assets should be to further the Aims and Objectives of FoMC set out in paragraph 3 above.