

# Constitution of Friends of Verdin Park

## 1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be **Friends of Verdin Park** (“the Group”).

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## 2. Purpose

The purpose of the Group is to promote, protect, and enhance Verdin Park for the benefit of the public.

In particular, the Group shall:

- Safeguard Verdin Park as a public space for recreation, relaxation, and community wellbeing.
  - Uphold the original intent of the park as a space for the people of Castle and Winnington.
  - Promote access, inclusion, and enjoyment of the park for all members of the community.
  - Support the preservation of the park’s natural environment, heritage, and character.
  - Engage constructively with local authorities, landowners, and stakeholders to ensure that any changes affecting the park are consistent with its public benefit purpose.
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## 3. Powers

In furtherance of its purpose, the Group may:

- Raise funds and receive grants or donations.
  - Apply for funding from public, private, charitable, or community sources.
  - Organise events, meetings, campaigns, educational activities, and community initiatives consistent with its purpose.
  - Work with local authorities, community organisations, and other stakeholders.
  - Undertake lawful actions necessary to protect and enhance the park as a public amenity.
  - Acquire, maintain, and manage equipment or materials necessary for the Group’s activities.
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## 4. Membership

Membership shall be open to any individual aged 18 or over who supports the purpose of the Group.

- Membership may be free or subject to a fee as determined by the Committee.

- Members shall have the right to attend and vote at General Meetings.
  - Each member shall have one vote.
  - A register of members shall be maintained by the Secretary.
  - The Committee may refuse or terminate membership where it reasonably considers such action to be in the best interests of the Group.
  - A member may resign at any time by written notice to the Secretary.
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## **5. Management Committee**

The Group shall be managed by a Committee consisting of at least three members, including:

- Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The Committee may also appoint additional Committee members as required.

Committee members shall:

- Be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- Serve for a term of one year and be eligible for re-election.
- Act in the best interests of the Group and its stated purpose.
- Declare any financial or personal interest relating to matters before the Committee.

No Committee member shall vote on any matter in which they have a direct financial or personal interest.

A Committee member may resign by written notice to the Secretary.

The Committee may appoint members to fill casual vacancies until the next AGM.

The Committee may establish sub-groups or working groups as necessary.

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## **6. Meetings**

### **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- An AGM shall be held once each calendar year.
- The AGM shall be open to all members.
- The AGM shall:
  - Receive reports on the activities of the Group.
  - Receive and approve the financial accounts.

- Elect the Committee.
- Consider any motions submitted by members.
- At least 14 clear days' notice of the AGM shall be given to members.
- Notice shall include the agenda, venue, date, and time of the meeting.

### **Special General Meetings (SGM)**

- A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee or by a written request signed by at least 10 members.
- At least 14 clear days' notice shall be given.

### **Committee Meetings**

- Committee meetings shall be held as required.
- Decisions shall be made by simple majority of those present and voting.
- In the event of a tied vote, the Chair shall have a casting vote.

### **Quorum**

The quorum for General Meetings shall be three members or one-third of the membership, whichever is greater.

The quorum for Committee Meetings shall be three Committee members.

### **Voting**

- Voting shall normally be by show of hands unless the meeting resolves otherwise.
- Decisions shall be determined by a simple majority unless stated otherwise in this constitution.

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## **7. Finance**

- The Group shall maintain a bank account in its name.
  - At least two authorised signatories shall be required for withdrawals or payments.
  - Funds belonging to the Group shall be used solely to further the purpose of the Group.
  - Proper accounts and financial records shall be maintained.
  - A financial report shall be presented at each AGM.
  - The financial year shall run from 1 April to 31 March.
  - The accounts may be independently reviewed where the Committee considers it appropriate or where required by a funder.
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## **8. Amendments to the Constitution**

This constitution may be amended at a General Meeting by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

Notice of any proposed amendment must be included in the notice of the meeting.

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## **9. Dissolution**

The Group may be dissolved only by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting called specifically for that purpose.

If the Group is dissolved:

- Any remaining funds or assets shall be transferred to a local organisation with similar aims, or to the local authority for the benefit of Verdin Park.
  - No funds or assets shall be distributed among members.
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## **10. Adoption**

This constitution was adopted on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed:

Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_