

Constitution : Maybush Copse Friends

Background

Maybush Copse is an eight acre site at the north end of the Chidham peninsula adjacent to, and on the west side of Cot Lane, and to the south of Maybush Drive. It was purchased by the Chichester Harbour Trust (The Trust) in 2009 with funds from the Trust, the Chichester Harbour Conservancy (The Conservancy), some charitable grants and substantial donations from the local community including the Parish Councils of Southbourne, and Chidham and Hambrook. The site has been leased to the Conservancy by the Trust. A Provisional Chairman of the Maybush Copse Friends (The Friends) has been appointed and a committee formed, subject to endorsement by a public meeting of supporters.

Purpose:

The 'Maybush Copse Friends' (The Friends) is a body set up to take responsibility for the long term management of the site for the benefit of the community, the environment and the protection of the Chichester Harbour AONB.

Organisation, Meetings, and Membership

Membership of the Friends will be open to anyone resident in the Chichester District, or active in local affairs. The day to day management of the affairs of the group will be carried out by the Executive Committee.

Southbourne Parish Council, Chidham & Hambrook Parish Council, the Trust and the Conservancy shall be formally represented within the group and each have a representative on the Executive Committee. Members will pay an annual subscription to be set by Members at the first General Meeting and then reviewed at each Annual General Meeting to be held in March.

Members will elect a Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and Committee members at each AGM.

The Treasurer will keep the accounts of the Friends. The Annual accounts will be presented to the members at the AGM for their approval. Members will be given at least 14 days notice of the date of the AGM. A quorum of at least 6 members is required at the AGM to elect the Committee and approve the accounts.

An Extraordinary General Meeting of Members can be called by the agreement of the Committee provided 4 weeks notice of the meeting and agenda has been given.

Actions:

The Friends will:

- Produce and maintain a five year plan Management Plan for the site, that is compliant with the lease held by the Conservancy from the Trust. This would include the initial layout, clearance and landscaping of the site, and subsequently the management, improvement, and maintenance of the site in accordance with the direction of the Conservancy, the agreement of the Parish Councils of Southbourne, and Chidham and Hambrook, and the wishes of the Trust and the local community.
- Implement the plan with guidance and advice from of the Conservancy.
- Coordinate the day to day site management, and assist in the organisation of community activities.
- No action taken by the Friends in the management of Maybush Copse shall run contrary to the terms of the lease granted to the Conservancy by the Chichester Harbour Trust.

Finance

The Friends will be run as an independent non profit making organisation.

It will raise funds through subscriptions, donations, grants, and voluntary fundraising activities.

A Bank Account will be opened in the name of 'Maybush Copse Friends'

Operation of the bank account will be conducted by the Treasurer, with payments requiring the signature of two committee members, of which the Treasurer may be one.

Insurance

Subject to assessment by the committee, the group will maintain insurance for those working on its behalf, for injuries to third parties and public liability.

Winding up

In the event of the winding up of the Friends, agreed by a resolution by at least two thirds of the members at a General Meeting, the Parish Councils of Southbourne, and Chidham and Hambrook will jointly take responsibility for the activities and responsibilities of the Friends, in accordance with the agreement made with the Councils. Any residual funds or assets will be passed to Southbourne PC to be used for the improvement or maintenance of the site.

This constitution was adopted by the Maybush Copse Friends

Date.....

Signed.....(Provisional Chairman)

Date.....