

GREENER BROCKENHURST COMMUNITY GROUP CONSTITUTION

1 Name & Legal Structure

The name of the group shall be **Greener Brockenhurst**.

Greener Brockenhurst is formed as an unincorporated constituted community group.

2 Mission statement

Greener Brockenhurst is an independent initiative, formed as a collaboration between several local community organisations, including the Parish Council and interested local residents for the purpose of taking actions to bring about changes that will make Brockenhurst and the surrounding area a greener and healthier place to live.

3 Aims

- To raise awareness of environmental issues, provide practical information and encourage our community to become involved and active in making changes to individual lifestyle and to the physical environment
- To bring about changes that will make Brockenhurst and the surrounding area a greener and healthier place to live by 2030.
- To promote renewable energy and community-led projects in order to reduce CO2 emissions harmful to health and well-being
- To reduce waste and promote reuse and recycling in our local community
- To support biodiversity and help nature recover
- To hold meetings to share ideas and spark discussion on where to focus our efforts for a sustainable future.

4 Powers

To enable the group to fulfil its aims, it has the following powers:

- a) Power to raise funds, to invite and receive contributions, provided that in raising funds the committee complies with all relevant legal requirements;
- b) Power to borrow money or to use part of the organisation's property as a security for a loan or mortgage, subject to any legal requirements;
- c) Power to open and operate a bank account;
- d) Power to buy take on, lease, or exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the objects and to maintain and equip it for use;
- e) Power to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Association as necessary for the pursuit of its objects, subject to any legal requirements;
- f) Power to employ staff (who may not be Members of the Committee) as necessary for the proper pursuit of the objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions for the staff and their dependants;

- g) Power to co-operate with other voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar charities purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
- h) Power to appoint and constitute any advisory committees, sub-committees or working groups, as the Committee may think fit;
- i) Power to do any other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

5 Membership

Membership is open to anyone who:

- lives in Brockenhurst or the surrounding area; and
- supports the aims of Greener Brockenhurst

Membership will begin as soon as the online membership application has been received and approved.

The committee may decide that an annual fee for membership is payable.

The committee may in its absolute discretion reject an application for membership.

The group has the right and responsibility to suspend or expel a member who has brought the name of the group into disrepute, acted inappropriately, or been deemed to work against the aims of the group. Such a decision can only be made by quorum decision at a general meeting of the group, after at least 14 days notice has been given to all members.

6 Officers and committee

The business of the group will be carried out by a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee will meet as necessary and not less than four times a year. At least initially the committee will consist of representatives of key stake holders in the village including at least one Parish Councillor.

The Committee will consist of up to 12 members, and be composed of 4 officers and up to 8 committee members. Up to 2 additional members may be co-opted onto the committee at the discretion of the committee.

The officers' roles are as follows:

- Chair, who shall be responsible for organising and chairing meetings
- Secretary, who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers
- Treasurer (when necessary)

In the event of an officer standing down during the year a replacement will be elected by the next General Meeting of members.

Any committee member not attending a meeting without apology for three months will be contacted by the committee and asked if they wish to resign.

The Committee meetings will be open to any member of Greener Brockenhurst wishing to attend, who may speak but not vote.

7 Meetings

7.1 Annual General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within fifteen months of the previous AGM.

All members will be notified by email at least 3 weeks before the date of the meeting, giving the venue, date and time.

Nominations for the committee may be made to the Secretary before the meeting, or at the meeting.

The quorum for the AGM will be 10% of the membership or 10 members, whichever is the greater number.

At the AGM:-

- The Committee will present a report of the work of Greener Brockenhurst over the year.
- The Committee will present the accounts of Greener Brockenhurst for the past year (if any)
- The officers and Committee for the next year will be elected.
- Any proposals given to the Secretary at least 7 days in advance of the meeting will be discussed.

7.2 Committee Meetings

Committee meetings may be called by the Chair or Secretary. Committee members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting.

The quorum for Committee meetings is three Committee members.

8 Rules of Procedure for meetings

All questions that arise at any meeting will be discussed openly and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to.

If a consensus cannot be reached a vote will be taken and a decision will be made by a simple majority of members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the chair of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

9 Finances

When necessary, an account will be maintained on behalf of the Association at a bank agreed by the committee. Three cheque signatories will be nominated by the Committee (one to be the Treasurer). The signatories must not be related nor members of the same household.

All payments will be signed by two of the signatories.

For cheque payments, the signatories will sign the cheque.



For other payments (such as BACS payments, cash withdrawals, debit card payments or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by two signatories, and held by the treasurer.

Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given at each meeting.

Any money raised by or on behalf of Greener Brockenhurst is only to be used to further the aims of the group, as specified in item 2 of this constitution.

This constitution was agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting of the group on:-

Date 3 February 2021

Camilla Pearse – Founder Member

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Pearse".

Signed

Annabelle Mellor – Founder Member

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Annabelle Mellor".

Signed