

The Constitution of the Vinery Road **Permanent Allotment Society Ltd** **Trading as Burnside and Vinery Allotment** **Society Ltd**

1. Name

Burnside and Vinery Road Allotment Society Ltd (by guarantee) hereafter the Society.

2. Official Communication

Shall normally be signed for on behalf of the Society by the Secretary or in absence the Chairman or Treasurer.

3. Aims

To develop a thriving, attractive and multifunctional allotment site that benefits plot holders, visitors, the local community and wildlife.

4. Objectives

The Society will operate as a non-profit making organisation to further the following objectives:

- a) The prime objective of the Society shall be to promote the use of the allotments and encourage their proper cultivation.
- b) To be carbon positive, by encouraging recycling, reusing, composting and organic growing.
- c) To seek and administer funding in support of the Society's aims.
- d) To continue a good relationship with Cambridge City Council as Landlords.
- e) To manage the site and seek ongoing improvements in standards and facilities.

5. Membership

Membership of the Society shall be open: -

- a) To existing member's and new members resident local to the CB1 area of Cambridge

- b) To all persons over the age of 18, who have made an application for an allotment, joining either or both waiting lists when the sites are fully let, have been approved by the site management and granted a tenancy, tenancies will be in individual names.
- c) Anyone interested in supporting the site but who are not plot-holders have the right to join as Associate Members. Associate Members shall not have the right to vote at Members meetings.
- d) As the society is limited by guarantee, each member shall pay £1.00 in event of any such claim against it. No member has any further liability as long as their actions are honest and legal.

6. Termination of Membership

The General Committee shall have the right, for good and sufficient reason which includes non-payment of any subscription or breach of site rules, to terminate membership, provided that the individual member shall have the right to be heard by the Committee before a decision is made.

7. Subscriptions

All individual members shall pay such subscriptions as the members may determine at an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.).

8. Society Committee

- a) The Society will have a committee drawn from membership of the Society and elected by the members at each A.G.M. The Committee may determine the powers and terms of reference of any Sub Committee and duration of its activities.
- b) The policy and general management of the affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee, which shall be responsible to the Annual General Meeting of the Society.
- c) All Society members are eligible to be nominated for the Committee. Individuals interested in serving on the committee will need to be nominated by two existing society members.
- d) The officers of the Committee will be two Site Chairpersons (one per site), Secretary and Treasurer plus as many additional committee members, to represent the membership as a whole, as the members decide at each A.G.M. The posts of two Site Chairpersons, Secretary and Treasurer will be affixed term of two years. Other committee members stand down at each A.G.M. but can seek re-election at the same meeting. The Site Chairpersons,

Secretary and Treasurer will be elected or re-elected by the new committee at the first committee meeting following the AGM.

- e) The Committee shall usually consist of 10 members.
- f) If vacancies occur among its members, the Committee shall have the power to fill these until the next A.G.M. from amongst the members of the Society.
- g) The Vinery Road and the Burnside sections of the committee will each meet independently at least 4 times per year to manage the day-to-day running of each site. A written record of all meetings will be made. The Committee will meet, as a whole, at least twice a year, with the meetings co-chaired by the two Site Chairpersons. A quorum at these bi-yearly committee meetings shall be 6, including committee members from both sites and at least two officers of the Committee. The committee will have full powers to supervise and manage the work of the Society.
- h) There shall be appointed an Auditor, or other person, who is not a member of the Committee, to independently examine the accounts, whereafter a Report shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

9. Annual General Meetings (A.G.M.)

An A.G.M. shall be held each year. At least 14 days' notice shall be given of the A.G.M. Notice shall be via e-mail sent directly to members, and posted to "non-online" members. Audited/independently examined accounts, Chairpersons and Secretary's report shall be presented, any proposals to amend the Constitution received and a Committee elected for the ensuing year. An Extraordinary General Meeting (E.G.M.) may be held at such times as the Committee may determine or at the request of at least 10 members of the Society. 10 members shall form a quorum, for the AGM and in the case of equal voting the Chairperson shall have a casting vote. Voting shall be on the basis of one vote per allotment holder, irrespective of the number of plots cultivated

10. Finance

- a) The Society's Committee has the power to determine how monies raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the objects of the Society and for no other purpose.
- b) The Treasurer shall keep proper account of the finances of the Society and shall open a bank account in the name of the Society.
- c) The accounts shall be audited or independently examined at least once a year by a person independent of the Committee and appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

11. Dissolution

If the Committee, by a simple majority, decides at any time on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society it shall, giving at least 14 days notice, by usual methods, call a Special General meeting of all members of the Society. If such a resolution shall be confirmed by a simple majority of those present at such meeting the Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the Society. Any assets remaining after meeting of any proper debts and liabilities shall be donated to the Arthur Rank Hospice.

12. Alterations to the constitution

Changes to the Constitution may be proposed by any members. Any amendments to the Constitution may be approved by a simple majority at either an A.G.M. or S.G.M.

THIS CONSTITUTION was adopted as the constitution of The Burnside and Vinery Allotment Society Ltd at a meeting held at

St Thomas's Hall - November 23rd 2021

Andy Kurdynowski - Vice Chairperson
Matthew Whitelegg - Secretary