

CREOS (Crouch End Open Space)

Registered Charity Number: 296860

CONSTITUTION (Governing document)

Objects of the Society

1. The objects of the Society are for the benefit of the public:
 - (a) to conserve, protect and enhance the Crouch End Playing Fields as an area of open space for public recreation;
 - (b) to conserve and protect the area as a natural habitat for a wide variety of wildlife;

In furtherance of these objects, but not further or otherwise, the Society through its Committee shall have the following powers:

- (c) to encourage and assist the public use for these purposes of the parts of the area to which the public have customarily had access;
- (d) so far as lies within the powers of the Society to secure that any changes or improvements within the area shall be consistent with the foregoing objects and the provisions of the restrictive covenants to which the area is subject;
- (e) to do all such things as shall be considered to assist the achievement of these objects so far as the same may be charitable and in particular to collect money, to appeal for funds, to borrow money and receive gifts in money or kind;

PROVIDED that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities.

Membership

2. Membership shall be open to all persons and to such organisations as may be approved by the Committee on payment of the annual subscription.

Subscriptions

3. Annual subscriptions shall be of such sums as shall be fixed by the Committee and shall be payable at the start of the financial year, provided that the Committee may remit payment of the whole or part of the subscription in circumstances where they consider it reasonable to do so.

Management

4. The management of the Society shall (except as otherwise herein provided) be delegated to a Committee of not more than 10 members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting ('AGM'). The Committee shall have the power to co-opt for specific purposes or occasions individuals who by virtue of their knowledge or expertise may be able to assist them.

Officers

5. The honorary officers of the Society shall be the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be elected at the AGM and shall hold office until the election of their successors (or as the case may be, their re-election) at the following AGM. The honorary officers shall be ex-officio members of the Committee in addition to the members elected under clause 4.

Notice of AGM

6. At least 14 days before the date of the AGM the Secretary shall send to all members an agenda for the meeting which shall include notice of any business to be dealt with under clause 12 (e) hereof. At the AGM 20 members shall constitute a quorum provided that they include not less than 2 honorary officers and one trustee.

Rotation of Committee

7. At the AGM all elected members of the Committee shall retire and shall be eligible for re-election but any casual vacancy in the membership of the Committee may be filled by the Committee.

Nomination of Candidates

8. Any 2 members may nominate a candidate for election to the Committee. Every member shall be entitled to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies and no more.

Committee Meetings

9. The Committee shall meet at least once every 3 months. 4 members shall form a quorum of whom at least one shall be an honorary officer. Minutes of the proceedings shall be taken and shall be open to inspection by any member of the Society on application to the Secretary.

Trustees

10. The Committee shall appoint no fewer than 3 of its elected members to act as charity trustees of the Society. The Chair of the Society shall be a trustee and at least 1 of the other trustees shall be an honorary officer. Each trustee shall continue to hold such office until:
 - (a) they resign as trustee, giving the Committee not less than 3 months' notice of their intention to do so or
 - (b) they cease to be a member of the Committee or
 - (c) they become disqualified by law from being a trustee or
 - (d) they are required to resign following a motion passed at a Committee meeting by not less than 50% of the full Committee membership, notwithstanding clause 16.

The trustees shall be responsible for setting financial limits on expenditure of the Society's funds. Subject to Treasurer approval, members of the Committee shall have authority to incur expenditure up to and including such limits. Expenditure in excess of set limits shall require approval of the Treasurer and no fewer than 2 trustees. The trustees shall comply with all relevant requirements and guidance provided by The Charity Commission.

Borrowing Powers

11. Subject to notice having been given to the members in writing at least 14 days before the date of the meeting at which the relevant motion is to be considered and subject to the approval of at least 2 trustees, the Society may pass a resolution authorising the Committee to borrow money for such purposes, of such amounts, in such manner and on such terms as shall be specified in the resolution.

Objects of AGM

12. The AGM shall be held within 2 months of the close of the financial year on a date and at a place and time to be fixed by the Committee and shall consider the following business:
- (a) to receive the reports of the honorary officers;
 - (b) to elect or re-elect the honorary officers
 - (c) to elect or re-elect the members of the Committee;
 - (d) to appoint an independent examiner or auditor to conduct an independent examination or audit, as appropriate, of the Society's annual accounts, if the Society's annual income has exceeded in the past year or is expected to exceed in the current year, an income threshold set by The Charity Commission above which an independent examination or audit is required, recommended or otherwise advised.
 - (e) To consider any other business of which notice shall have been given to the Secretary in writing at least 21 days before the date of the meeting.

Special Meetings

13. Any general meeting of the Society other than the AGM shall be a special meeting and shall take place upon the requisition of no fewer than 20 members stating the purpose for which such a meeting is required. The meeting shall be called within 21 days of the members' request and the meeting shall be held within 28 days of sending out the notice to members. At the meeting 20 members shall constitute a quorum provided that they include no fewer than 2 honorary officers and 1 trustee.

Financial Year

14. The financial year of the Society shall end on the 31st day of March in each year, at which time the Treasurer shall prepare a statement of the annual

accounts. As soon as is practicable thereafter the annual accounts shall be independently examined or audited in line with the provisions of clause 12 (d) in circumstances where the threshold referred to in clause 12 (d) is applicable. After approval by the trustees, the annual accounts shall be presented at the AGM

Amendment of Constitution

15. These rules may be amended or added to or repealed by resolution of which notice has been given in writing to the members at least 14 days before the date of the meeting at which the relevant motion is to be considered at the AGM or a special meeting provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless it is carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting thereon and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a Charity in law.

Chair's Casting Vote

16. At any meeting of the Society or its Committee, in the event of there being an equality in the votes cast for any motion, the Chair (or as the case may be, the Acting Chair), whether or not s/he has already voted, shall have a second or casting vote.

Unruly conduct

17. The conduct of all meetings shall be in control of the Chair and if at any meeting by the persistent interruption or other unruly or unseemly conduct of a member or members the proceedings shall be made difficult or disrupted, any member may propose that a member named or otherwise identified shall be no longer heard and if such a motion is seconded and passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, the member or members so identified shall cease for the duration of the meeting to have the rights and privileges of membership and may if necessary be removed from the meeting.

Area of the 'Playing Fields'

18. For the purposes of the objects of the Society, the Crouch End Playing Fields shall be taken to comprise all that open area surrounded or enclosed by the Queen's Wood and the backs of the properties in Wood Vale, Cranley Gardens, Park Road, Glasslyn Road, Montenotte Road, Shepherds Hill and Priory Gardens.

Dissolution Provisions

19. If at any general meeting a motion for the dissolution of the Society shall be passed by a majority of the members present and if at a special meeting held not less than 4 weeks thereafter of which not less than 21 days' notice

shall have been given to the members and at which not less than one half of the members shall be present, the resolution shall be confirmed by a resolution passed by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members voting thereon, the Society shall be dissolved and the assets of the Society shall be transferred to some other charitable organisation having objects similar to those of the Society and if and insofar as this is not possible shall be applied for other charitable purposes.

This CONSTITUTION is a revised version of an earlier (amended) edition dated March 1987. This further, revised CONSTITUTION has been approved by the trustees of CREOS (Crouch End Open Space) and is submitted to the AGM on 12th May 2025 for adoption.

Glenys Law.....

Robert Jackson.....

Paul Secher.....

12th May 2025