

**CONSTITUTION  
of  
Jesmond Community Orchard  
An Unincorporated Association**

**1. NAME**

The name of the Association shall be "Jesmond Community Orchard", hereby known as the Association.

**2. AREA**

The area covered by the association shall be the suburb of Jesmond in Newcastle upon Tyne.

**3. AIMS**

The aim of the association shall be to provide opportunities for growing fruit and other produce for the benefit of the general community.

**4. OBJECTS**

The objectives for which the association is established are:

1. To encourage the growing of fruit trees and other productive crops by local residents of Jesmond.
2. To foster community spirit by encouraging local residents to become involved in planning, preparation, planting, cultivation and harvesting of local fruit.
3. To share and disseminate information on sustainable fruit culture.
4. To enhance an area of land within St Andrew's Cemetery.
5. To provide educational opportunities for local schools.

**5. POWERS**

In order to achieve its aims the organization has the power to:

1. Consult with appropriate agencies for advice
2. Commission specialist work in order to achieve its objectives

3. Raise funds to finance the association's work by any lawful means except permanent trading
4. Negotiate management agreements with appropriate agencies
5. Employ and pay staff in the pursuit of its objectives
6. Share information and cooperate with other organizations
7. Own or lease property in order to achieve its objectives
8. Do anything else within the law that is necessary in carrying out its aims.

## **6. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Any person in the area of benefit interested in furthering the aims and objects of the association may be a member.
2. Any other appropriate persons may be invited to join the Association.

## **7. Membership Rules.**

1. Every member shall have one vote either in person or by proxy.
2. Membership fees may be determined and changed from time to time by the Organisation.

## **8. Management Committee.**

1. The Association shall annually elect a Management Committee ("The Committee") from its members.
2. The Group and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by members of the Committee
3. The Committee shall consist of:
  - (i) Three Honorary Officers: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary
  - (ii) Up to 6 Ordinary Members - at least four of whom should be local residents from the Jesmond area.
4. If unexpected circumstances create any vacancies mid-term, the Management Committee may co-opt replacement(s)

## **9. Powers of the Management Committee.**

1. The Committee shall carry out the work of the Group in pursuit of its objects and shall exercise all of the powers mentioned in this constitution.
2. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt any professionals and/or any other person who will be helpful to the Group.
3. Any matter or situation not covered by these rules or any matter of interpretation shall be dealt with by the Committee which may refer the matter to the whole membership of the Organisation for decision.

4. The Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of its business
5. Members of the committee shall not be allowed to personally make a financial gain from the association.

## **10. Management Committee Meetings and Proceedings.**

1. Meetings shall be called whenever necessary but the Committee shall meet at least three times a year.
2. If the Chair is absent from any meeting is absent, the members of the Committee present shall choose one of their number to chair the meeting before any other business is transacted.
3. Every matter shall be decided by a majority of votes of the members of the Committee present and voting on the question. In the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote. Co-opted members do not have a vote.
4. The quorum of the Committee shall be one third of the elected committee (subject to a minimum of three people two of whom must be local residents of Jesmond.)
5. All the members of the Management Committee shall retire from office together at the end of the annual general meeting next after the date on which they came into office but they may be re-elected or re-appointed.
6. The Secretary shall keep minutes of proceedings at all meetings which shall be available for inspection.

## **11. GENERAL MEETINGS**

The association shall meet at least 2 times per year, one of which shall be the Annual General Meeting. At least 14 days clear notice will be given of the convening of a meeting.

## **12. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

An Annual General Meeting will be held each year, with each one not being more than 15 months after the previous one. The Annual General Meeting will consider a report on the activities of the association and the state of the finances, the election of officers and committee members and such other business as the members shall decide.

## **13. FINANCE**

1. All funds of the Association shall be received by the Treasurer and deposited in a bank account in the name of the association. There shall be three signatories to the bank account and all cheques must be signed by 2 signatories. The Treasurer will prepare up to date accounts, and will

- provide a financial report to the association at regular intervals.
- 2. The funds of the Group shall be used only to further the objects of the Group and for no other purpose.
- 3. The Management committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1992 with regard to:
  - (i) The keeping of accounting records for the Group.
  - (ii) The preparation of annual statements of account for the Group
  - (iii) The auditing or independent examination of the statements of account of the Group

**15. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Any decision to amend the constitution will be taken at an annual general meeting or an extraordinary general meeting, with notice of proposed amendments sent in advance with the notice for the meeting.

**16. DISSOLUTION**

In the event of the association ceasing to exist, any funds available after all expenses and liabilities have been paid, shall be distributed to charitable organizations agreed by the Committee within the area of benefit.

This constitution was adopted at a meeting of the association held on

.....

Signed by the Co-Founders

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....