



Friends of Ringwood Forest

Constitution

Title	The Association will be called “Friends of Ringwood Forest”, henceforth referred to as The Association.
Objectives	<p>The Objectives of The Association will be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">To campaign to protect the forest and heathland of Hampshire and Dorset, and in particular Ringwood Forest and heathland, for the recreational use and amenity of the people of Hampshire and Dorset and visitors to these countiesTo campaign to safeguard these open spaces, their tranquillity and the quality of air surrounding VerwoodTo campaign to protect Ringwood Forest and its important pockets of heathland and its seed bank, from developers, land owners and leaseholders wishing to extract minerals and then landfill or restore unsuitablyTo campaign to ensure that restoration of associated quarry and landfill sites is managed carefully and is correct for the ForestTo campaign to ensure these sites retain their environmental integrity, including natural habitats, for local people, visitors and it's many and varied wildlife and to leave a viable legacy for future generations
Membership	<p>Membership of the Association is open to anyone who has an interest in furthering the above Objectives.</p> <p>Membership of the Association has been established from those people who belonged to the No2PurpleHaze Interest Group, now known as Friends of Ringwood Forest (FoRF) Members. There are two groups of members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online: comprising those people who have an email address, have provided a postal address and to whom communications will be delivered electronically• Offline: comprising those people who have a Verwood (BH31) postcode, do not have email addresses and to whom important communications will be delivered by hand
Management	<p>The “Opening” Management Committee (the Committee) of the Association shall be a Committee co-opted by the founder members until such time as a first AGM is held 2012 (<i>date to be confirmed</i>).</p> <p>The Committee will have a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and such other offices as the AGM may agree. The Committee may also have a President.</p> <p>The Committee will appoint an Auditor who shall not be a member of the Committee.</p> <p>The founder members will co-opt new members on to the Committee by 31st March 2012. The Committee will consist of no more than eleven members, including Officers, and a quorum will be not less than five members.</p>
Officers	The “Opening” Committee of founder members will stand until the first AGM. Thereafter the Committee will be elected or re-elected at the AGM.



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With the exception of the President all appointments to the Committee will be for a period of one year with re-election at the AGM.

If the position of Chair is vacant for any reason the Vice Chair will preside over the business of the Committee until such time as a replacement Chair is elected.

If a member of the Committee resigns during a year the Committee may co-opt or appoint a replacement until the elections at the next AGM.

President

The Association may have a President appointed by the Committee by a simple majority. The President will not be a voting Member of the Committee.

The President will retain their position for life or until they resign or they are voted out and/or replaced at an EGM.

Honorary Members

The Committee may co-opt on to the Committee such expertise as that committee feels relevant for any specific work or objectives. Such members are appointed in an advisory capacity only and do not have a vote.

Life Members

The Committee can nominate such Members as it sees fit for Life Membership. Such Members will have been nominated for their contribution to the work of the Association and will have membership for life. The Members will be asked to endorse such appointments at the next AGM.

Financial Year

The financial year for the Association will run from 1st April to 31st March with Audited Accounts to be prepared for and circulated to Members at the AGM by the Auditor.

Finance/Accounts

The Association's funds will be held in a Bank Account and/or Building Society Account as agreed by the Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible for depositing funds.

No financial commitment exceeding £25.00 may be made on behalf of the Society without prior approval of the Committee.

Such prior approval may, for the sake of efficiency, be sought by email to the Committee and approved on the basis of no less than 50% of Committee members (including Officers) agreeing. The Treasurer plus the Chair or the Vice Chair (or any combination of two out of these three officers) will have overriding emergency authorisation powers. In all other cases approval must be sought at Committee meetings.

Withdrawal of funds from the Bank or Building Society Account will be agreed and signed by, in general, the Treasurer and one other committee nominated signatory as defined in the Mandate to the Bank. In exception circumstances any two of the Officers authorised by the Bank Mandate may sign for the release of funds.

Committee

The Committee will meet at least every two months on dates agreed and advertised by



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Meetings	<p>the Secretary. The Committee will not hold meetings during the month of August except if requested by a majority of Committee members in order to address urgent or emergency matters.</p> <p>Minutes will be made available on request to Members</p>
External Contacts	<p>Where new or significant representation on behalf of FoRF is to be made to external bodies, all drafts are to be circulated to the Committee for review so that value may be added. In cases of urgency, a proposed publication date will be provided and Committee members invited to respond beforehand.</p>
Annual General Meeting	<p>The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be on a date, usually in May or June, to be advised by the Committee at which the reports of the Chair, Treasurer and Secretary or such other areas of activity as the Committee deem necessary will be presented to those present.</p> <p>The inaugural AGM is likely to be held no earlier than September 2012.</p>
Extraordinary General Meetings	<p>An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called by Members on giving at least 8 weeks' notice to the Committee and those Members must give their reason for calling that meeting.</p> <p>The Committee may call for an EGM by giving at least 4 weeks' notice to The Members. This EGM may only be called by a majority vote within the Committee.</p> <p>An EGM will not be held within 3 months prior to or after an AGM.</p>
Ad Hoc General Meetings	<p>The Association will hold informal meetings from time to time when the Committee feels there is need to inform all Members.</p>
Dissolution	<p>In the event that the Association is dissolved any surplus funds after the discharge of all liabilities shall be donated to a project in line with the aims of The Association within Moors Valley Country Park or within the Town of Verwood.</p> <p>The distribution of these funds to be at the sole discretion of the Committee.</p>
Amendments to Constitution	<p>Amendments to this constitution, once approved at the first AGM, can only be made when a resolution has been put to the Committee by Members for inclusion at the AGM.</p> <p>Such amendments should be submitted at least two calendar months in advance of the AGM and must carry the name of the people moving and seconding the amendment. If the members moving and seconding the amendment are not present at the AGM, the amendment will be deemed to have fallen.</p>