

FRIENDS OF BARTONSHAM MEADOWS CONSTITUTION



1. NAME

The name is 'Friends of Bartonsham Meadows' which can be abbreviated to 'Friends' or 'FoBM'.

2. AIMS OR OBJECTS OF THE FRIENDS OF BARTONSHAM MEADOWS ARE:

OBJECTIVES

1. To restore the meadows as traditionally managed floodplain habitats.
2. To provide environmental, educational and social benefits for the locality.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

There are many positive/beneficial outcomes including:

- a. Flood mitigation
- b. Carbon sequestration
- c. Ecological enhancement
- d. Improved river water quality
- e. Sustainable agriculture
- f. Local responsible stewardship
- g. Provision of a community resource
- h. Increased community engagement, access and awareness
- i. Environmental education and research
- j. Volunteer opportunities

3. POWERS

The Friends of Bartonsham Meadows has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, the Friends' powers include:

1. Fundraise
2. Receive contributions through donations, and potentially through an optional membership fee
3. Deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of the Friends to be held in the name of a nominee
4. When transferring any property ensure it is to another organisation whose objectives are in line with the objectives of Friends of Bartonsham Meadows



5. Employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of the Friends
6. Coordinate and manage volunteers
7. Work in partnership with different organisations
8. Carry out anything else within the law necessary to reach the objectives of
9. Friends of Bartonsham Meadows
10. To acquire or hire and manage, maintain or improve property of any kind
11. To sell, let or dispose of property of any kind (but only in accordance with the restrictions imposed by the Charities Act 2011)

4. MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who supports the aims of Friends of Bartonsham Meadows, and is signed up to our mailing list, is considered a supporting member of the group. These members will receive updates via newsletters, receive invitations to open events and invitations to volunteering opportunities, and will be invited to attend public meetings.

There is an additional member-tier for those who are able to financially support us through an annual donation to the group.

Full membership is open to anyone who:

- is aged 16 and over
- lives in Herefordshire or the surrounding area
- supports the aims of Friends of Bartonsham Meadows
- makes an annual payment to the Friends

A list of all members will be kept by the Committee. A full member vote will be taken to determine Committee roles.

4.1 CEASING TO BE A MEMBER

Members may resign at any time in writing. The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Committee before a final decision is made.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Friends of Bartonsham Meadows will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, marital status or age.



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. The Committee will consist of around 8 officers including:

- Chair, who shall chair both general and committee meetings
- Secretary, who shall be responsible for the taking of minutes and the distribution of all papers, with responsibility for keeping records of members
- Treasurer who shall be responsible for maintaining accounts

In the event of an officer standing down during the year a replacement will be elected by the next General Meeting of members. Additional committee members may be co-opted at any time by the Committee.

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 in writing 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 Friends of Bartonsham Meadows over the year.
- The Committee will present the accounts of Friends of Bartonsham Meadows for the previous year.
- 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 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Secretary may call a Special General Meeting at the request of the majority of the Committee or at least eight other members giving a written request to the Chair or Secretary stating the reason for their request. The meeting will take place within twenty-one days of the request. All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post.

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



7.3 GENERAL MEETINGS

General Meetings are open to all members and will be held at least once every 6 months or more often if necessary. All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting, giving the venue, date, time and agenda, and notice may be by telephone, email or post. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 10% of the membership or 5 members, whichever is the greater number.

7.4 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

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. Records of all financial transactions will be maintained and held by the Treasurer.

10. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting. Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary in writing. The proposal must then be circulated with the notice of meeting.

Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.



11. DISSOLUTION

If a meeting, by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down the group it may call a Special General Meeting to do so.

The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group. If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, after once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to a charitable cause with similar objectives.

This constitution was agreed at the Inaugural General Meeting of the Friends of Bartonsham Meadows on:

Date: 1st July 2021

Name and position in group: Ruth Westoby, Chair

Signed: 

Name and position in group: Dick Jones, Treasurer

Signed: 



WWW.FRIENDSOFBARTONSHAMMEADOWS.ORG
INFO@FRIENDSOFBARTONSHAMMEADOWS.ORG



