

CONSTITUTION OF FRIENDS OF BIRDCAGE WALK

1. **Name**

The name of the group shall be **Friends of Birdcage Walk**

2. **Aim**

To care for, maintain and improve the historic green space generally known as St Andrew's Churchyard

3. **Objectives**

The group will fulfil the aim by:

- ❖ Carrying out and promoting both environmental improvement and practical conservation in line with grade II listed structures. To educate, encourage and support the local population in environmental practice by working with statutory and non statutory agencies.
- ❖ Promoting the health and well-being of the residents of the area and working together as residents regardless of age, ethnic origin, ability, sex, belief or political affiliation recognising the value of our many differences.
- ❖ Involving local people in improving the area.
- ❖ Promoting community recreation.
- ❖ Raising funds and receiving contributions where appropriate to finance the work.
- ❖ Publicising and promoting work.
- ❖ Opening bank accounts.
- ❖ Making rules and standing orders for categories of members and their rights.
- ❖ Taking out insurance.
- ❖ Organising meetings, training courses and events.
- ❖ Working with similar groups and exchanging information and advice with them.
- ❖ Taking any action that is lawful, which would help it to fulfil its aims.

4. **Membership**

- a. Membership of Friends of Birdcage Walk shall be open to anyone interested in helping the group to achieve its aim and willing to abide by the rules of the group.
- b. Every member shall have one vote at general meetings.
- c. The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse membership to an applicant, where it is considered such membership would be detrimental to the aims, purposes or activities of the group.

d. Registration and termination of membership.

❖ Any member of the association may resign his/her membership and any representative terminate or suspend the membership of any members, if in its opinion his/her conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of the association, provided that the individual member or representative of the member organisation (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the General Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.

5. Management

a. Friends of Birdcage Walk shall be administered by a Management Committee of not less than three people and not more than fifteen members elected at the group's Annual General Meeting, Committee Members must be at least 18 years old.

b. The officers of the management Committee shall be:

The Chairperson

The Treasurer

The Secretary

And such other officers of the group shall deem necessary at the Meeting.

c. The Management Committee shall meet at least twice a year.

d. At least five Management Committee Members must be present for the Management Committee meeting to take place.

e. Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote, then the chairperson shall have a second vote.

f. Power to set up sub-groups and work parties as deemed necessary who shall be accountable to the committee.

6. Finance

a. Any money obtained by the group shall be used only for the group,

b. Any bank accounts opened for the group shall be in the name of the group.

- c. Any cheque issued shall be signed by at least two of any three nominated signatures.
- d. The Management Committee will ensure that the group stays within the budget.

7. Committee Meetings

- a. The committee shall meet at least four times each year.
- b. The quorum for a meeting shall be five.
- c. The committee shall be accountable for the members at all times.
- d. All meetings must be minuted and available to any interested party.
- e. All committee members shall be given at least seven days notice of a meeting unless it is deemed an emergency meeting.

8. Annual General Meeting

- a. The Friends of Birdcage Walk shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at not more than 15 month intervals.
- b. Where possible members shall be notified personally, otherwise notice will be deemed served by advertising the meetings in at least five public places giving at least fourteen days' notice of the AGM.
- c. The business of the AGM shall include:
 - ❖ Receiving a report from the Chairperson of the group's activities over the year.
 - ❖ Receiving a report and presentation of the last financial year's accounts from the Treasurer on the finances of the group.
 - ❖ Electing a new Management Committee and considering any other matter as may be appropriate at such a meeting.
- d. The quorum for Annual General Meeting shall be at least eight persons of which no more than four shall be committee members.

9. Alteration of the Constitution

- a. Proposals for amendments to this constitution, or dissolution (see Clause 10) must be delivered to the secretary in writing. The secretary in conjunction with all other officers shall then decide on the date of a forum meeting to discuss such proposals, giving at least four weeks' clear notice.

b. Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting.

10. Dissolution

The group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting. Any assets shall be returned to their providers, if they require it, or shall be passed to another group with similar aims.

11. Adoption of the constitution

This constitution was adopted by the members present at the AGM held on 24 September 2022 and revised and updated April 2023

Signed:

_____	(Chair)
Paula O'Rourke	
_____	(Secretary)
Rosalind Olsen	
_____	(Treasurer)
Norman Charnley	
_____	(Member)
Trevor Blythe	
_____	(Member)
James Gibbs	
_____	(Member)
Kath Rogers	
_____	(Member)
David Gwilym	
_____	(Member)
Caroline Melvin	
_____	(Member)
Lesley Woodward	

April 2023