

Burgess Park Food Project Constitution

1) NAME

The name of the group shall be the Burgess Park Food Project, hereafter referred to as The BPFPP. The BPFPP are responsible for the development and management of Glengall Wharf Garden.

2) OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the BPFPP shall be:

- To work with the local community to increase the understanding of healthy, local and fresh food.
- To promote food growing, organic horticulture, permaculture and other ecological issues through skill sharing and volunteering.
- To help improve the local green environment in Burgess Park and the surrounding area.
- To help regenerate the local community, contribute to sustainable development in London and enhance the life of the park.
- To bring people together, building links within the community for groups and individuals.

3) POWERS

In furtherance of the objectives, but not otherwise, the Management Committee may exercise the power to:

- (i) Work together with the local community irrespective of age, sex, ethnicity, ability, religion or political view.
- (ii) Promote environmental improvement, sustainability and conservation by educating, encouraging and assisting the local population in environmental practice, working in partnership with similar groups and organisations.
- (iii) Invite and receive contributions and raise funds where appropriate, to finance the work of the BPFPP, and to open a bank account to manage such funds.
- (iv) Publicise and promote the work of the BPFPP and organise meetings, training courses, events or seminars etc.
- (v) Work with groups of a similar nature and exchange information, advice and knowledge with them, including cooperation with other voluntary bodies, charities, statutory and nonstatutory organisations.
- (vi) Employ staff and volunteers (who shall not be members of the Management Committee) as are necessary to conduct activities to meet the objects.
- (vii) Take any form of action that is lawful, which is necessary to achieve the objects of the BPFPP.

4) GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

(i) Membership of BPFPP shall consist of members of the Steering Group, members of the project groups and any interested party in the local community who supports the aims and values of BPFPP and expresses an interest in its activities. This can include, but is not limited to, those people connected to the BPFPP

Facebook page or Twitter account, those registered to receive the BFPF newsletter and those who attend BFPF events.

(ii) Members will receive regular information on how to become active in BFPF activities and join any project groups.

(iii) Should a member act in a manner contrary to the aims and values of BFPF, the Steering Group shall have the right to exclude them from meetings and membership of BFPF, with the proviso that the member has the right to be heard by the Steering Group before a decision is made.

5) SUBSCRIPTIONS

At present there is no subscription charge.

6) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

(i) The BFPF shall be administered by a management committee of no less than three (3) people and no more than fifteen (15), who must be at least 18 years of age. Members will be elected for a period of up to one year, but may be re-elected at the BFPF's AGM.

7) OFFICERS

(i) The BFPF shall have a committee consisting of the following members:

Chairperson

Treasurer

Secretary

plus nominated representatives from each of the project groups and any additional officers the BFPF deems necessary at meetings to carry out the required project activities. In addition, the Steering Group may co-opt further members (non voting) as necessary, who shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Steering Group as defined above. Steering group members and project group representatives are voting members at all meetings.

In the event of a vacancy occurring among the officers, the Steering Group shall have the power to fill such a vacancy from its own members or other members of the BFPF until the next AGM.

8) PROJECT GROUPS

Project groups will be set up to lead work in a number of key areas such as growing, livestock, beekeeping, permaculture, volunteers. Each project group will nominate at least one person to be a member of the Steering Group. Any interested person from the local community may participate in any project group.

9) MEETINGS

Committee meetings

(i) The committee shall meet at least six times a year. Meetings shall enable the BFPF to discuss actions and monitor progress to date, and to consider future developments.

(ii) All members shall be given at least fourteen (14) days' notice of when a meeting is due to take place, unless it is deemed as an emergency.

(iii) Two-thirds of committee members must be present in order for a meeting to take place.

Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson or an appointed deputy shall make the final decision.

(iv) It shall be the responsibility of the Chairperson to chair all meetings or a designated deputy in his/her absence. All meetings must be minuted and accessible to interested parties.

AGM

(i) The AGM shall take place no earlier than three months before the end of the financial year.

At least fourteen (14) days' notice must be given before the meeting takes place.

(iii) All general members are entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson or an appointed deputy shall make the final decision.

(iv) At the AGM a quorum will consist of a minimum of 10 members. If there is not a quorum, a new AGM must be called.

10) FINANCE

(i) Any money acquired by the BFPF, including donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Management Committee in the name of the BFPF.

All funds must be applied to the objects of the BFPF and for no other purpose.

(ii) Bank accounts shall be opened in the name of the BFPF. Any deeds, cheques etc relating to the BFPF's bank account shall be signed by at least two (2) of the following committee members: Chairperson; Treasurer; Secretary.

(iii) Any income/expenditure shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer who will be accountable to ensure funds are utilised effectively and that the BFPF stays within budget.

Official accounts shall be maintained, and will be examined annually by an independent accountant who is not a member of the BFPF. An annual financial report shall be presented at the AGM. The BFPF's accounting year shall run from 01 April to 31 March.

11) ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

(i) Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a majority vote at a special general meeting or at the AGM.

(ii) Amendments to this constitution or dissolution of the BFPF must be conveyed to the Secretary formally in writing. The Secretary and other officers shall then decide on the date of a special general meeting to discuss such proposals, giving members at least four weeks (28 days) notice.

12) DISSOLUTION

(i) The BFPF may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members in a majority vote at a special meeting. Any assets or remaining funds after debts have been paid shall be returned to their providers or transferred to local charities or similar groups at the discretion of the Management Committee.

This amended constitution was adopted at an Special General Meeting held at Glengall Wharf Garden on 18th January 2015 by: