

CHILDREN IN NATURE CIC CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Group shall be Children in Nature CIC

2. OBJECTS

- a) to develop and refurbish what is known as the “Park Keepers Cottage”, a property owned by Wingate Parish Council sited at the Welfare Park in Wingate, for community use.
- b) to provide a resource that will improve the learning opportunities of young people, reduce anti-social behaviour, create diversionary activities within the community, reduce isolation and promote healthy living.

3. OPERATION

- a) be non- party in politics, non- sectarian in religion, and at all times be conducted in accordance with best practice in terms of equality and diversity
- b) seek to work in furtherance of its objects in consultation with other bodies and the community with shared objectives or interests of relevance to Children in Nature CIC.
- c) operate as a ‘not-for-profit’ environmental body applying all funds in meeting the CIC’s costs and furthering its objects.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the objects but not otherwise the Children in Nature CIC shall have the power to:

- a) Raise funds and invite contributions provided that in doing so The Children in Nature CIC shall not undertake any substantial trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law.
- b) Write print or publish in whatever form, such papers, pamphlets promotional material or other documents as shall further the objects and to distribute the same whether for payment or otherwise.
- c) consult representatives of voluntary organisations, government departments, statutory authorities and individuals.

- d) collect and disseminate information on all matters relating to its objects, and to exchange such information with other bodies having similar objects.
- e) co-operate with charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects of The Children in Nature CIC and to exchange information and advice with them.
- f) affiliate with other organisations with similar objects.
- g) establish such advisory committees or groups as the Steering Group may recommend.
- h) do all lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of The Children in Nature CIC's objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to anyone who supports the objects of The Children in Nature CIC whose name and contact details will be maintained by Hon. Secretary under arrangements compliant with Data Protection legislation.

All members have the right to attend, speak and vote at meetings of The Children in Nature CIC.

6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

In extreme cases of misconduct by any member the Children in Nature CIC Steering Group shall have the right, for good and sufficient reason, to exclude from meetings an individual member provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by a Panel of three (3) members of the Steering Group appointed by the Steering Group, accompanied by a friend, before any final decision is taken. This exclusion may be for a fixed term or indefinitely depending upon the nature of the misconduct.

7. HONORARY OFFICERS

- a) In forming the Children in Nature CIC Directors have been appointed.
- b) In the event of a vacancy occurring among the Directors, the Steering Group shall have the power to fill such vacancy from the membership.

8. STEERING GROUP

- a) Under the direction of Hon. Officers, the general management of the affairs of the Children in Nature CIC shall be conducted by a Steering Group in accordance with policy determined from time to time by the Children in Nature CIC upon the recommendation of the Steering Group.

- b) The Steering Group shall consist of up to six (6) Directors of whom Three (3) shall be the Honorary Officers.
- c) If casual vacancies occur amongst its membership the Steering Group shall have the power to fill these from amongst the Children in Nature membership.
- d) The Steering Group shall have the power to co-opt additional persons with a particular experience/expertise (whether or not members of the Children in Nature CIC) to serve or advise the CIC.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a) An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held for the purpose of:
 - I. receiving the Annual Report.
 - II. receiving the Auditor's Report
 - III. electing the Honorary Officers.
 - IV. filling any vacancies in the membership of the Steering Committee.
 - V. appointing the Auditor.
 - VI. considering, whenever necessary, proposals to amend the Constitution
 - VII. other business of which due notice has been received
- b) The Honorary Secretary shall give not less than Fourteen (14) days notice of the Annual General Meeting to all members of the Children in Nature CIC.
- c) All members of the Children in Nature CIC shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual General Meeting.
- d) Nominations for election to the Steering Group must be submitted in writing and must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary at least Seven (7) days before the Annual General Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot.

10. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chair of the Children in Nature CIC or Hon. Secretary may at any time at their discretion, and shall within 21 days of receiving a written request to do so, signed by not less than

three members and giving reason for the request, call a Special General Meeting of the Children in Nature CIC for the purposes of altering the Constitution in accordance with clause 14 hereof.

11. RULES OF PROCEDURE

- a) **Voting:** Except as provided for in Clause 14, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present. No member shall exercise more than one vote, but in the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.
- b) **Quorum:** Three members shall form a quorum at meetings of the Steering Group. Six (6) members shall form a quorum at General Meetings of the Children in Nature CIC.
- c) **Minutes:** The proceedings of the Children in Nature CIC in General Meeting and notes of actions agreed at meetings of the Steering Group shall be recorded by Hon. Secretary.

12. FINANCE

- a) All monies raised by or on behalf of the Children in Nature CIC shall be paid into a bank account held in the name of Children in Nature CIC and be applied to further the objects of the CIC and for no other purpose.
- b) Hon. Treasurer shall maintain a proper account of the finances of the CIC and shall open a bank account in the name of the Children in Nature CIC.
- c) All cheques drawn on the account of the Children in Nature CIC or other financial commitments exceeding two hundred and fifty pounds (£250) must be signed by at least two authorised signatories of the CIC.
- d) The Accounts shall be audited by an Auditor appointed by the Annual General Meeting.

13. DISSOLUTION

Any decision to dissolve the Children in Nature CIC for any reason must be taken at a General Meeting of the Children in Nature CIC of which not less than 14 days written notice has been given setting out the terms of a resolution to dissolve the CIC.

Confirmation of a resolution to dissolve the Children in Nature CIC would require a two-thirds majority of members present at the meeting.

Disposal of any of the Children in Nature CIC assets after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities would be for determination at the General Meeting and be transferred to such other organisations with objects similar to the CIC FIND as may be agreed.

14. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any proposal to alter the Constitution must be delivered in writing to Hon. Secretary of the CIC not less than Twenty Eight (28) days before the date of the meeting at which it is first to be considered.

A special General Meeting to alter the Constitution will be called in accordance with Clause 10.

An alteration will require the approval of a two thirds majority of individual members of the Children in Nature CIC present at a General Meeting. Notice in writing of each such meeting must have been given in accordance with normal procedure, but not less than Fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting in question and setting out the wording in the proposed alteration.

THIS CONSTITUTION was adopted as the Constitution of

THE CHILDREN IN NATURE CIC

at a Public Meeting

held at Wingate Community Centre – November 6th 2019

Signed : *Amanda Taylor-Saunders* (Chair)

Signed: *Richard Sanderson* (Hon. Secretary)

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