

Community Association of Poundbury CIC

Summary of our Articles of Association

Name: The name of the organisation is Community Association of Poundbury CIC.

Aims and Objectives:

The Association exists to benefit the community of Poundbury without private gain and aims to:

- Enhance the quality of life for residents, volunteers, and workers.
- Build a sense of community through inclusivity and engagement.
- Support local economic development and green initiatives.
- Provide information and foster community links.
- Ensure the organisation is well-governed and sustainable.

Membership:

- Membership is open to individuals who are either residents, volunteers, or active workers in Poundbury.
- Applications are subject to approval by the Directors.
- Membership is personal to the individual and cannot be transferred.
- Members must continue to meet eligibility criteria and notify the Association if they no longer qualify (e.g., if they move out of Poundbury or cease to work or volunteer there).
- Directors may expel a member if their actions are deemed harmful to the Association or its objectives.

Meetings of Members:

- An Annual General Meeting (AGM) is held each year, plus at least one additional general meeting.
- General meetings may include Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) called for specific purposes.
- Members are notified in advance, and meetings are chaired by the appointed Chairperson or another Director, if necessary.
- Decisions are made via voting, by either a show of hands or a poll vote if requested.

The Board of Directors and Working Group/Committee Structure:

The Directors manage the business and operations of the CIC. Key points include:

- Directors are required to exercise their responsibilities in line with the Nolan Principles (the Seven Principles of Public Life), including selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, and leadership.
- The minimum number of Directors is three, and the maximum is seven.
- Directors may rotate roles such as Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- A quorum for meetings is three Directors.
- Working Groups and Committees may be set up to focus on particular areas like events, community engagement, governance, or advocacy, operating under clear rules and reporting back to the Directors.

The Directors are responsible for phased plans to expand operations as resources and community capacity grow. This phased approach ensures new initiatives are sustainable.

Finance:

- Members' liability is limited to £1.
- Funds raised or received are strictly used to achieve the Association's objectives.
- Directors are not remunerated except for expenses directly related to their role.
- Financial records and annual accounts must comply with the requirements of the Companies Act.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusivity:

The Association is committed to promoting inclusivity and does not discriminate on the grounds of race, gender, religion, disability, or other protected characteristics.

Communication and Records:

- Notices and meeting communications can be sent electronically or in writing.
- Minutes of meetings are recorded and kept for no less than ten years.
- Updates on the Association's progress and actions will be shared transparently with members.

Conflicts of Interest:

Directors must declare any personal conflicts of interest and may be excluded from decision-making where such a conflict arises.

Changes to the Articles of Association or Winding Up the CIC:

- Any changes to these Articles require approval by special resolution at a general meeting.
- If the CIC is dissolved, any remaining assets will be passed to Poundbury-based Talk About Trust, which owns the Pavilion in the Park (Charity Registration Number 1186202), in accordance with its Asset Lock terms, a legal safeguard under the CIC regulations that ensures the Association's assets and any surplus funds are permanently used for the benefit of the community: in the event a CIC is wound down, all remaining assets must transfer to another "asset-locked" organisation such as a charity or another CIC. This guarantees that the community benefits from the CIC's resources, maintaining its not-for-profit ethos.

The full Articles of Association are available for review from secretary@lovepoundbury.org

March 26, 2025