



## **Friends of Rising Sun Country Park**

### **Constitution**

#### **1.Name**

The name of the group shall be Friends of Rising Sun Country Park.

#### **2.Vision & Objects of the Group**

**Group Vision:** To protect and improve the Rising Sun Country Park as a heritage asset, a place of ecological interest, site of local natural beauty and recreational use and to promote the conservation of its natural flora and fauna to ensure that all persons can benefit from the amenity.

The objects of Friends of Rising Sun Country Park are to:

- Promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by promoting the bio-diversity & wildlife habitats of Rising Sun Country Park in North Tyneside;
- Advance the education of the public and local community in conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment while working in partnership with local business, council and other organisations and members of the public.

#### **3. Area of Benefit**

Rising Sun Country Park and surrounding areas.

#### **4. Powers**

To further the objects, Friends of Rising Sun Country Park has the power to:

- 4.1** Recruit volunteers and employ and pay staff;
- 4.2** Work in partnership with other organisations as appropriate;
- 4.3** Invest funds in any lawful way. Professional advice should be taken when necessary;
- 4.4** Raise funds by any lawful means except permanent trading;
- 4.5** Accept gifts either for the general purposes of the Friends of Rising Sun Country Park or for a specific purpose within or connected with the objects;
- 4.6** Do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the objects.

## **5. Membership**

**5.1** Membership is open to any individual aged 18 or over or organisation that agrees with the objects. Each member has one vote.

**5.2** The Committee may set up a youth membership and any other types of membership that they decide.

**5.3** The Committee must keep an up to date list of the members of the Friends of Rising Sun Country Park. Membership details will only be used in furtherance of the group's objects, and will be maintained in strict accordance with the law on GDPR, as set out in the group's GDPR policy document.

**5.4** A member may resign by written notice to the Committee.

**5.5** If the Committee considers that a member's conduct is harmful to the group:

**5.5.1** The Committee should ask the member concerned, or someone on behalf of the member concerned, to put their case to a Committee meeting;

**5.5.2** If after hearing the member's case the Committee decides that the member should leave the group, they may terminate the membership by written notice to that member. That notice is final.

## **6. The Committee**

**6.1** The group shall be managed by a Committee of not less than three and not more than ten members. All Committee members must be members of the group.

**6.2** Committee members shall stand from the end of the AGM that they were elected at to the end of the next AGM.

**6.3** Committee members will be eligible for re-election at the end of their period of service.

**6.4** The committee has the power to co-opt up to three members on to the committee to fill vacant places until the next AGM. Each co-opted member has one vote

**6.5** The Committee's officers shall include:

**6.5.1** A chair elected at the AGM;

**6.5.2** A secretary elected at the AGM;

**6.5.3** A treasurer elected at the AGM;

**6.5.4** Any other officers that the Committee decides.

**6.6** A committee member can only fill one position

**6.7** The Committee shall meet a minimum of three times a year, and must keep a formal record of all meetings.

The quorum for a Management Committee meeting is three members.

Each member has one vote, and if the vote is tied, the Chair has a casting vote.

## **7. General Meetings**

**7.1** The Secretary must give 14 days notice of a General Meeting to all members.

**7.2** All members are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

**7.3** The quorum for the meeting is six members, or a tenth of the membership, whichever is the greater.

**7.4** A formal record of a General Meeting shall be kept.

**7.5** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within six months of the financial year-end of the group. Financial year-end shall be 31st March each year.

**7.6** The AGM will

- Receive nominations for the Chair and other committee members;
- Elect the Chair and other committee members;  
Receive a report of the year's activities;
- Receive the year's accounts.

**7.7** The Chair and other Committee members will be elected on a show of hands and serve from the end of the AGM to the end of the next AGM.

**7.8** The Committee can call a Special General Meeting (SM) at any time. If five members request a SGM in writing, the Secretary must call one.

## **8. Finance**

**8.1** All funds belonging to or raised for the Friends of Rising Sun Country Park must be used in furthering the objects.

**8.2** The Treasurer shall keep an account of all income and expenditure and shall present examined accounts at the AGM.

**8.3** An independent examiner, who is not a member of the group, shall be appointed to examine the accounts.

**8.4** There shall be one or more bank or building society accounts in the name of the group. Cheques must be signed by any two of the following committee members, who must not be related: Treasurer, Secretary, Chair.

**8.5** Committee members may claim reasonable out-of-pocket expenses on terms approved by the committee. No other payments can be made to members of the group.

## **9. Changes to the constitution**

This constitution can only be changed at a General Meeting. The Secretary must give 14 days notice of the meeting to all members, along with full details of proposed changes to the constitution. For the constitution to be changed, over half the members present at the meeting must agree.

## **10. Dissolution**

**10.1** The Friends of Rising Sun Country Park can only be dissolved at a General Meeting. The Secretary must give 14 days notice of the meeting to all members, along with details of the proposed dissolution. For the group to be dissolved, over half the members present at the meeting must agree.

**10.2** If the members agree that the group should be dissolved, any assets remaining after the clearing of all debts and liabilities shall be given to a group with similar charitable objects or, if this cannot be done, to any charitable purpose.

**11. A copy of this constitution shall be available to all members.**

**This constitution was amended at a General Meeting of the Friends of  
Rising Sun Country Park at Rising Sun Countryside Centre on 12th July  
2024**

**Signed**

**Chair:**

**Claire Partleton**

**Secretary:**

**Keith Taylor**

**Treasurer:**

**Eric Styan**