

Greening Chiddingly

Constitution

1. Name

The name of the organisation shall be Greening Chiddingly.

2. Objectives

Greening Chiddingly is a not-for-profit, voluntary, unincorporated association working to create a sustainable, low-carbon future for Chiddingly and surrounding villages. Our aim is to engage the whole community in tackling climate and ecological breakdown, and take action locally so that together we can make a real difference. Our ambitious mission is to make ours one of the greenest, healthiest and most sustainable communities in the region.

The organisation was established in December 2021 when a group of local people came together to share their concerns about the need for action on the climate crisis. The group agreed upon the name Greening Chiddingly at a meeting on 24 March 2022.

3. Principles

Greening Chiddingly is a collaborative effort and aims:

- to be open and inclusive – the more people and organisations we can involve and engage, the more we will achieve. For example, we aim to work closely with the village school, Parish Council, church groups, farmers, the business community, and other local community groups.
- to build on the enthusiasm, ideas and efforts of the whole community.
- to make space for different viewpoints.
- to be non-party-political.
- to provide a positive vision for how our community can work together to create a safer, happier, healthier and more sustainable future for all.
- to help educate, inform and inspire our community.
- to recognise that people are approaching climate and environmental issues from different perspectives. Worries about climate change are a key driver for many people, but there are other good reasons to cut carbon emissions, protect and enhance biodiversity, and promote more environmentally sustainable lifestyles.
- to 'practise what it preaches' and work to minimise its own carbon footprint.
- to demonstrate best practice with regard to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) – see separate EDI Policy.

4. Powers

In order to achieve its objectives, the organisation may:

- Raise money.
- Open bank accounts.
- Take out insurance.
- Organise meetings and events.
- Communicate information via its website, social media, the local press (including the Parish News), email and other channels.
- Work with and exchange information with other groups with shared objectives.
- Do anything that is lawful that will help it to fulfil its objectives.

5. Membership

- There is no formal application process or subscription to pay to join the organisation.
- Individuals can sign up to become members of Greening Chiddingly by subscribing to email news updates, which means they will be invited to meetings and hear about upcoming activities and how they can get involved.
- Membership shall be available to anyone regardless of race, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability, religion and belief, or age. However, only members over the age of 18 will be entitled to vote at General Meetings.
- Other organisations and voluntary groups that support its goals can also become Affiliate Members of Greening Chiddingly.
- Affiliate Members shall appoint a representative to attend meetings on behalf of their organisation, and should notify Greening Chiddingly of that person's name.
- Individual members (over the age of 18) and Affiliate Members shall have one vote at General Meetings.
- The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by a group meeting, but the member has a right to be heard by the meeting before a final decision is made.

6. Organisation and management

Greening Chiddingly has a deliberately 'light touch' management approach:

- Decisions on the overall direction of the organisation are made by informal group meetings approximately once a month, or as required, to agree a programme of activities, coordinate different projects, and take other necessary decisions.
- A Chair will be appointed to chair these meetings, and act as an overall spokesperson for the organisation when required. The position of Chair shall not be held by any one person for more than 5 consecutive years.
- A Secretary will be appointed to convene meetings and take notes (which will be published on the organisation's website). The Secretary will also have responsibility for overseeing the organisation's EDI Policy.
- A Treasurer will be appointed to manage the funds of the organisation, keep proper accounts and monitor the organisation's bank account.
- The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer positions will be voted on at the Annual General Meeting of the membership.
- Responsibility for planning and carrying out specific activities is delegated to smaller 'task and finish' groups or project teams, as appropriate. These sub-groups will appoint coordinators to lead them.

7. Financial management

- The organisation may seek funding or sponsorship for activities, as agreed by group meetings.
- Other income may be raised by charging an entrance fee or participation fee for events or seeking voluntary contributions from time to time.
- Any money obtained for the organisation will be used solely with the aim of fulfilling the organisation's objectives.
- The Treasurer will be responsible for maintaining accounts for the organisation, which will be published on an annual basis.

8. Annual General Meeting

- The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM), normally in January.
- All members shall be given at least 14 days' notice of the AGM and shall be entitled to attend and vote.

- In the event that it is not possible for the AGM to take place in person, arrangements will be made for the meeting to be held on an online platform such as Zoom.
- The quorum for an AGM shall be 5 members.
- The business of the AGM shall include:
 - Receiving a report from the Chair on the organisation's activities over the year;
 - Receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the organisation;
 - Electing the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer for the year ahead;
 - Every two years, reviewing the EDI Policy;
 - Considering any other matter as may be decided.
- Nominations for the positions of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer should be submitted in writing to the Secretary at least 7 days before an AGM.
- Should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies, election shall be by secret ballot of the members present and voting at the AGM.
- Should the number of nominations be less than the number of vacancies, further oral nominations may, with the approval of the AGM, be invited from members present and voting at the AGM.

9. Extraordinary General Meeting

- An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Chair at any time to consider urgent matters that cannot be deferred until the next AGM.
- An Extraordinary General Meeting can also be called by members if a petition signed by 5 current members is submitted to the Secretary.

10. Rules of procedure at all meetings

- Decisions at meetings will be reached by consensus, where possible, and if not by a simple majority vote of those present. In the event of a tied vote, the motion will be deemed to have been turned down.

11. Alterations to the Constitution

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting.

12. Dissolution

The Organisation may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another local organisation with similar aims.

Agreed by the Greening Chiddingly group meeting on 30 August 2022

Signed by:



David Nash
Chair, Greening Chiddingly