



Registered charity (1177041)

The Constitution of Belmont Community Association

12 September 2018

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Constitution of Belmont Community Association


1 Name

The name of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is **Belmont Community Association**.

2 National location of principal office

The principal office of Belmont Community Association is located at

Belmont Community Centre,
Sunderland Road,
Gilesgate Moor,
DURHAM,
DH1 2LL

 0191 3866659

 belmontca@live.co.uk

Website: www.belmontcommunityassociation.org.uk

3 Objects of Belmont Community Association

The objects of Belmont Community Association are to establish and run Community Buildings and outdoor facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants of Belmont, Carrville, Gilesgate and the surrounding area. BCA will make no distinction based upon gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, nationality, race or political, religious or other opinions in providing facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation for individuals or groups. Facilities are provided for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the conditions of life of the said inhabitants.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of Belmont Community Association for the purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005]and [section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008].

4 Powers of Belmont Community Association

Belmont Community Association has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, Belmont Community Association has power to:

- a) borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. Belmont Community Association must comply as appropriate with sections 124 and 125 of the Charities Act 2011 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- b) buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- c) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to Belmont Community Association. In exercising this power, Belmont Community Association must comply as appropriate with sections 117 and 119-123 of the Charities Act 2011;
- d) employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out the work of Belmont Community Association. Belmont Community Association may employ or remunerate charity trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of that clause;
- e) deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of Belmont Community Association to be held in the name of a nominee, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000.

5 Application of income and property

- (a) The income and property of Belmont Community Association must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
- b) A charity trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of Belmont Community Association or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of Belmont Community Association.
- c) A charity trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at Belmont Community Association's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.
- d) None of the income or property of Belmont Community Association may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of Belmont Community Association.
- e) Nothing in this clause shall prevent a charity trustee or connected person receiving any benefit or payment which is authorised by Clause 6.

6 Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons

i) General provisions

No charity trustee or connected person may:

- (a) buy or receive any goods or services from Belmont Community Association on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) sell goods, services, or any interest in land to Belmont Community Association;
- (c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, Belmont Community Association;
- (d) receive any other financial benefit from Belmont Community Association unless the payment or benefit is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission ("the Commission"). In this clause, a "financial benefit" means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

ii) Scope and powers permitting trustees' or connected persons' benefits

- (a) A charity trustee or connected person may receive benefit from Belmont Community Association as a beneficiary of Belmont Community Association provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way.
- (b) A charity trustee or connected person may enter into contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to Belmont Community Association where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, sections 185 to 188 of the Charities Act 2011.
- (c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause a charity trustee or connected person may provide Belmont Community Association with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to Belmont Community Association by the charity trustee or connected person.
- (d) A charity trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to Belmont Community Association at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- (e) A charity trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to the Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The charity trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

(f) A charity trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of Belmont Community Association on the same terms as members of the public.

iii) Payment for supply of goods only – controls

Belmont Community Association and its charity trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (2)(c) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

(a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in a written agreement between Belmont Community Association and the charity trustee or connected person supplying the goods ("the supplier").

(b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.

(c) The other charity trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of Belmont Community Association to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a charity trustee or connected person. In reaching that decision the charity trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a charity trustee or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.

(d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to Belmont Community Association.

(e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of charity trustees is present at the meeting.

(f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the charity trustees in the minute book.

(g) A majority of the charity trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 6.

iv) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:

(a) "Belmont Community Association" includes any company in which Belmont Community Association:

(i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or

(ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or

(iii) has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;

(b) "connected person" includes any person within the definition set out in clause [30] (Interpretation);

7 Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

A charity trustee must:

a) declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with Belmont Community Association or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by Belmont Community Association which has not previously been declared; and

b) absent himself or herself from any discussions of the charity trustees in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of Belmont Community Association and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest). Any charity trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the charity trustees on the matter.

8 Liability of members to contribute to the assets of Belmont Community Association if it is wound up

If Belmont Community Association is wound up, the members of Belmont Community Association have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

9 Charity trustees

i) Functions and duties of charity trustees

The charity trustees shall manage the affairs of Belmont Community Association and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of Belmont Community Association. It is the duty of each charity trustee:

(a) to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions in his or her capacity as a trustee of Belmont Community Association in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of Belmont Community Association; and

(b) to exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:

i) any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and,

ii) if he or she acts as a charity trustee of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

ii) Eligibility for trusteeship

a) Every charity trustee must be a natural person.

b) No individual may be appointed as a charity trustee of Belmont Community Association :

- if he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
- if he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause [12(1)(e)].

c) No one is entitled to act as a charity trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the Charity trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of charity trustee. At the present time acceptance should be in writing or via email.

d) At least one of the trustees of Belmont Community Association must be 18 years of age or over. If there is no trustee aged at least 18 years, the remaining trustees may only act to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

iii) Number of charity trustees

(a) There must be **at least** three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee.

(b) The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum.

iv) First charity trustees

The first charity trustees are as follows, and are appointed for a term of three years:

Mick Bennett	Patrick Conway	Peter Corbett
Dave Drinkwater	Barbara Howarth	Joe Knight
Walter Meikle	Bill Moir	Anita Steven
Alex Wilson	Tammy Lee	Gerry Lee

10 Appointment of charity trustees

- i) Apart from the first charity trustees, every trustee must be appointed for a term of three years by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.
- ii) In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of Belmont Community Association .

11 Information for new charity trustees

The charity trustees will make available to each new charity trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- a) a copy of the current version of this constitution; and
- b) a copy of Belmont Community Association 's latest Trustees' Annual Report and statement of accounts.

12 Retirement and removal of charity trustees

- i) A charity trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:
 - a) retires by notifying Belmont Community Association in writing (but only if enough charity trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
 - b) is absent without the permission of the charity trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
 - c) dies;
 - d) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs; or
 - e) is disqualified from acting as a charity trustee by virtue of sections 178-180 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
- ii) Any person retiring as a charity trustee is eligible for reappointment.

13 Taking of decisions by charity trustees

Any decision may be taken either at a meeting of the charity trustees; or by resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by all of the charity trustees, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form to each of which one or more charity trustees has signified their agreement.

14 Delegation by charity trustees

- i) The charity trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they shall determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The charity trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.
- ii) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the *General Regulations* and any other power of delegation available to the charity trustees, but is subject to the following requirements:
 - a) a committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a charity trustee;
 - b) the acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the charity trustees as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
 - c) the charity trustees shall from time to time review the arrangements which they have made for the delegation of their powers.

15 Meetings of charity trustees

i) Calling meetings

- (a) Any charity trustee may call a meeting of the charity trustees.
- (b) Subject to that, the charity trustees shall decide how their meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

ii) Chairing of meetings

The charity trustees may appoint one of their number to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. If no-one has been so appointed, or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, the charity trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting.

iii) Procedure at meetings

(a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is two charity trustees, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of charity trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the charity trustees may decide from time to time. A charity trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote.

(b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.

(c) In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

iv) Participation in meetings by electronic means

(a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

(b) Any charity trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the charity trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

(c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

16 Membership of Belmont Community Association

i) The members of Belmont Community Association shall be its charity trustees for the time being. The only persons eligible to be members of Belmont Community Association are its charity trustees. Membership of Belmont Community Association cannot be transferred to anyone else.

ii) Any member and charity trustee who ceases to be a charity trustee automatically ceases to be a member of Belmont Community Association.

17 Informal or associate (non-voting) membership

i) The charity trustees may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, and may determine the rights and obligations of any such members (including payment of membership fees), and the conditions for admission to, and termination of membership of any such class of members.

ii) Other references in this constitution to "members" and "membership" do not apply to non-voting members, and non-voting members do not qualify as members for any purpose under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

18 Decisions which must be made by the members of Belmont Community Association

- i) Any decision to:
 - a) amend the constitution of Belmont Community Association ;
 - b) amalgamate Belmont Community Association with, or transfer its undertaking to, one or more other Charitable Incorporated Organisations in accordance with the Charities Act 2011; or
 - c) wind up or dissolve Belmont Community Association (including transferring its business to any other charity) must be made by a resolution of the members of Belmont Community Association (rather than a resolution of the charity trustees).
- ii) Decisions of the members may be made either:
 - a) by resolution at a general meeting; or
 - b) by resolution in writing, in accordance with sub-clause (4) of this clause.
- iii) Any decision specified in sub-clause (1) of this clause must be made in accordance with the provisions of clause [28] (amendment of constitution), clause [29] (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), or the provisions of the Charities Act 2011, the *General Regulations* or the *Dissolution Regulations* as applicable. Those provisions require the resolution to be agreed by a 75% majority of those members voting at a general meeting, or agreed by all members in writing.
- iv) Except where a resolution in writing must be agreed by all the members, such a resolution may be agreed by a simple majority of all the members who are entitled to vote on it. Such a resolution shall be effective provided that:
 - a) a copy of the proposed resolution has been sent to all the members eligible to vote; and
 - b) the required majority of members has signified its agreement to the resolution in a document or documents which are received at the principal office within the period of 28 days beginning with the circulation date. The document signifying a member's agreement must be authenticated by their signature, by a statement of their identity accompanying the document, or in such other manner as Belmont Community Association has specified. The resolution in writing may comprise several copies to which one or more members has signified their agreement. Eligibility to vote on the resolution is limited to members who are members of Belmont Community Association on the date when the proposal is first circulated.

19 General meetings of members

i) Calling of general meetings of members

The charity trustees may designate any of their meetings as a general meeting of the members of Belmont Community Association . The purpose of such a meeting is to discharge any business which must by law be discharged by a resolution of the members of Belmont Community Association as specified in clause [18] (Decisions which must be made by the members of Belmont Community Association).

ii) Notice of general meetings of members

a) The minimum period of notice required to hold a general meeting of the members of Belmont Community Association is seven days.

b) Except where a specified period of notice is strictly required by another clause in this constitution, by the Charities Act 2011 or by the General Regulations, a general meeting may be called by shorter notice if it is so agreed by a majority of the members of Belmont Community Association .

c) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted; or that an electronic form of notice was properly addressed and sent, shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after it was posted or sent.

iii) Procedure at general meetings of members

The provisions in clause 15 (2)-(4) governing the chairing of meetings, procedure at meetings and participation in meetings by electronic means apply to any general meeting of the members, with all references to trustees to be taken as references to members.

20 Saving provisions

i) Subject to sub-clause (ii) of this clause, all decisions of the charity trustees, or of a committee of charity trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a charity trustee:

a) who was disqualified from holding office;

b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;

c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise; if, without the vote of that charity trustee and that charity

trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the charity trustees at a quorate meeting.

ii) Sub-clause (i) of this clause does not permit a charity trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees if, but for sub-clause (i), the resolution would have been void, or if the charity trustee has not complied with clause 7 (Conflicts of interest).

21 Execution of documents

i) Belmont Community Association shall execute documents either by signature or by affixing its seal.

ii) A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the charity trustees.

iii) If Belmont Community Association has a seal:

a) it must comply with the provisions of the General Regulations; and

b) the seal must only be used by the authority of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees duly authorised by the charity trustees. The charity trustees may determine who shall sign any document to which the seal is affixed and unless otherwise so determined it shall be signed by two charity trustees.

22 Use of electronic communications

i) **General**

Belmont Community Association will comply with the requirements of the Communications Provisions in the General Regulations and in particular:

a) the requirement to provide within 21 days to any member on request a hard copy of any document or information sent to the member otherwise than in hard copy form;

b) any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

23 Keeping of Registers

Belmont Community Association must comply with its obligations under the General Regulations in relation to the keeping of, and provision of access to, a (combined) register of its members and charity trustees.

24 Minutes

The charity trustees must keep minutes of all:

- i) appointments of officers made by the charity trustees;
- ii) proceedings at general meetings of Belmont Community Association ;
- iii) meetings of the charity trustees and committees of charity trustees including:
 - the names of the trustees present at the meeting;
 - the decisions made at the meetings; and
 - where appropriate the reasons for the decisions;
- iv) decisions made by the charity trustees otherwise than in meetings.

25 Accounting records, accounts, annual reports and returns, register maintenance

- i) The charity trustees must comply with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, to the preparation and scrutiny of statements of account, and to the preparation of annual reports and returns. The statements of account, reports and returns must be sent to the Charity Commission, regardless of the income of Belmont Community Association , within 10 months of the financial year end.
- ii) The charity trustees must comply with their obligation to inform the Commission within 28 days of any change in the particulars of Belmont Community Association entered on the Central Register of Charities.

26 Rules

The charity trustees may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or byelaws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of Belmont Community Association , but such rules or byelaws must not be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force must be made available to any member of Belmont Community Association on request.

27 Disputes

If a dispute arises between members of Belmont Community Association about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, and

the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

28 Amendment of constitution

As provided by sections 224-227 of the Charities Act 2011:

- i) This constitution can only be amended:
 - a) by resolution agreed in writing by all members of Belmont Community Association;
or
 - b) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting at a general meeting of the members of Belmont Community Association called in accordance with clause 19 (General meetings of members).
- ii) Any alteration of clause 3 (Objects), clause [29] (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), this clause, or of any provision where the alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit to be obtained by charity trustees or members of Belmont Community Association or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- iii) No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 2011 or the General Regulations shall be valid.
- iv) A copy of every resolution amending the constitution, together with a copy of Belmont Community Association 's constitution as amended must be sent to the Commission by the end of the period of 15 days beginning with the date of passing of the resolution, and the amendment does not take effect until it has been recorded in the Register of Charities.

29 Voluntary winding up or dissolution

- i) As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, Belmont Community Association may be dissolved by resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve Belmont Community Association can only be made:
 - a) at a general meeting of the members of Belmont Community Association called in accordance with clause 18 (General meetings of members), of which not less than 14 days' notice has been given to those eligible to attend and vote:
 - (i) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting, or

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(ii) by a resolution passed by decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question put to the general meeting; or

b) by a resolution agreed in writing by all members of Belmont Community Association.

ii) Subject to the payment of all Belmont Community Association 's debts:

a) Any resolution for the winding up of Belmont Community Association , or for the dissolution of Belmont Community Association without winding up, may contain a provision directing how any remaining assets of Belmont Community Association shall be applied.

b) If the resolution does not contain such a provision, the charity trustees must decide how any remaining assets of Belmont Community Association shall be applied.

c) In either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of Belmont Community Association.

iii) Belmont Community Association must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for Belmont Community Association to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:

a) the charity trustees must send with their application to the Commission:

(i) A copy of the resolution passed by the members of Belmont Community Association;

(ii) a declaration by the charity trustees that any debts and other liabilities of Belmont Community Association have been settled or otherwise provided for in full; and

(iii) a statement by the charity trustees setting out the way in which any property of Belmont Community Association has been or is to be applied prior to its dissolution in accordance with this constitution;

b) the charity trustees must ensure that a copy of the application is sent within seven days to every member and employee of Belmont Community Association , and to any charity trustee of Belmont Community Association who was not privy to the application.

(iv) If Belmont Community Association is to be wound up or dissolved in any other circumstances, the provisions of the Dissolution Regulations must be followed.

30 Interpretation

In this constitution:

"connected person" means:

- a) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the charity trustee;
- b) the spouse or civil partner of the charity trustee or of any person falling within sub-clause (a) above;
- c) a person carrying on business in partnership with the charity trustee or with any person falling within sub clause(a) or (b) above;
- d) an institution which is controlled -
 - i) by the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clause (a), (b), or (c) above; or
 - ii) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause (d)(i), when taken together
- e) a body corporate in which -
 - (i) the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (a) to (c) has a substantial interest; or
 - ii) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (e)(i) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest. Section 118 of the Charities Act 2011 applies for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

"General Regulations" means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012.

"Dissolution Regulations" means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Insolvency and Dissolution) Regulations 2012.

The **"Communications Provisions"** means the Communications Provisions in [Part 10, Chapter 4] of the General Regulations." **charity trustee**" means a charity trustee of Belmont Community Association .

A **"poll"** means a counted vote or ballot, usually (but not necessarily) in writing.