

The Gransdens Sportsfield & Recreational Association

CONSTITUTION

Incorporating revisions adopted at a Special
General Meeting held on 18 March 2009

1. NAME

The organisation shall be called "The Gransdens Sportsfield & Recreational Association" (hereinafter called "the Association").

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be to provide and maintain adequate sports, recreational and other leisure-time facilities for the benefit of the inhabitants of both Great Gransden and Little Gransden in the interests of social welfare and conditions of life of the said communities.

3. POWERS

In furtherance of these objects but not further or otherwise the Association shall have the power to:-

- i. provide and maintain playing fields, play grounds, cricket and football pitches, tennis courts and other similar recreational facilities
- ii. raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person and persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions and otherwise PROVIDED THAT the Association shall not undertake permanent trading activities in raising funds for the said objects
- iii. do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

4. LOCATION

The Association shall carry out its functions on the sportsfield owned by Great Gransden Parish Council (hereinafter called "the Council") being field Land Registry title number CB99008 Caxton Road, Great Gransden under the terms of a Licence to be granted to the Association by the Council (hereinafter called "the Licence") and being for not less than 28 years from 15 September 1990.

5. OBLIGATIONS

The Association shall:-

- i. fully maintain at its own expense the Sportsfield with all its facilities (including the sports pavilion erected by the Council) to the satisfaction of the Council
- ii. maintain full insurance cover in the joint names of the Association and the Council
- iii. comply with the terms of the Licence.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open without elective process to all persons who reside in the parishes of Great and Little Gransden (hereinafter called "The Members") and, subject solely to the determination of the executive committee of the association to those persons who are paid up members of any sporting club or leisure group affiliated to the sports field association within the two parishes. Members who are individuals qualifying by residence shall not be required to pay any membership fee at any time but the Association may require a membership or affiliation fee from any club or other organisation that uses the sports field or any of its facilities and to charge for the use of the sports field or any facility including the pavilion by members and others.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee (hereinafter called “the Committee”) consisting of members and representatives to be elected or appointed respectively, as provided by Clause 8, at the Annual General Meeting in each year and subject to termination of office by resignation or otherwise shall remain in office until their successors are elected or appointed at the AGM next following their election. Any vacancy arising during the year may be filled in the case of a member by the Committee and in the case of a representative by the appropriated sporting club or leisure organisation mentioned in Clause 8. The retiring members and representatives of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment at the AGM. The Committee shall have power from time to time to co-opt persons for any specific purpose and shall also have power to appoint such sub-committees as it may from time to time decide and may determine their powers and terms of reference.

8. COMPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Committee shall comprise a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 8 persons who shall be nominated or elected at the AGM, all of whom must qualify as an individual member of the Association under Clause 6, as follows

Chairman

Treasurer

Secretary

Up to two representatives from the Council, only one with voting powers

Up to four representatives from sporting club or leisure organisations located with the parishes of Great Gransden and Little Gransden, but limited to one representative of each club or organisation

- (b) The representatives of the Council and sporting club or leisure organisation may name one deputy who may, in their absence, attend the Committee meetings and vote.
- (c) Should the minimum number of 6 representatives not be elected, the Council will nominate additional members to achieve the minimum.
- (d) Once formed, the Committee may wish to co-opt additional persons, subject to clause 7 and 15(b).
- (e) No person may be elected to serve as Chairperson for more than four consecutive years.

9. GENERAL MEETINGS

A General Meeting shall be held annually in the month of March to transact the following business:-

- i. to receive and, if approved, adopt a Statement of the Association’s Accounts to the end of its preceding financial year, i.e. 31st December
- ii. to note the appointment of or to elect (in accordance with the provisions of clause 8) the members or representatives of the Committee
- iii. to appoint an Auditor or Auditors.

10. ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

All members over 18 years of age who are present in person shall be entitled to vote at General Meetings.

11. ANNUAL REPORT

An annual report and financial statement with confirmation of full insurance cover shall be made by the Chairperson of the Committee to the Great Gransden Parish annual meeting.

12. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be convened within 28 days from the receipt of a requisition in writing signed by not less than 20 members specifying the object of the Meeting for any of the following purposes:-

- i. to consider and, if approved, sanction any duly made alteration to this Constitution PROVIDED THAT no alteration shall be made to Clause 2 (Objects), Clause 15(a) (Voting), Clause 17 (Notice of Meetings), Clause 19 (Dissolution) or this sub-clause without the written approval of the Charity Commission having first been obtained and PROVIDED FURTHER that no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Association to cease to be a charity at law
- ii. to deal with a special matter which the Committee may desire to place before the Members
- iii. to receive the resignation of the Committee or to remove any member or members thereof from office and to fill any vacancy or vacancies caused thereby
- iv. to deal with any special matter which the Members requiring the Meeting may desire to put before the Association.

A notice convening a Special General Meeting shall be given and shall contain the information as hereinafter provided.

13. CHAIR AT GENERAL MEETINGS

At General Meetings the Chairperson of the Committee shall take the chair but if he or she is not present a chairperson shall be elected to preside. Except as specified in clause 15(a) hereof the chairperson shall have an additional casting vote in the event of equality of votes.

14. QUORUM

At Committee meetings 4 persons (being either elected members or representatives) shall form a quorum. At General Meetings 6 Members shall form a quorum. Members under 18 years of age may attend General Meetings but they shall not be entitled to vote and shall not be counted as part of the necessary quorum.

15(a). VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

Save on any proposal to alter the Constitution or to dissolve the Association every matter shall be determined by the majority of Members entitled to vote present and voting on the question but, on any proposal to alter the Constitution or to dissolve the Association, approval of two-thirds of those Members shall be required and the Chairperson in those events shall not have a casting or additional vote.

(b) VOTING AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Persons serving on the Committee (being either members or representative) shall have one vote each but co-opted persons shall not have a vote. In the event of equality of votes the Chairperson (or the vice-chairperson if he is presiding) shall have an additional casting vote.

16. BYE-LAWS

The Committee shall have power to make and amend from time to time Rules regulating the conduct and affairs of the Association provided the same are not inconsistent with this Constitution. Such Rules shall be posted in some conspicuous part of the Sports Pavilion and shall be binding on all Members of the Association and on the members of all clubs and organisations affiliated to the Association and all persons using the Sportsfield, the Pavilion and the facilities.

17. NOTICES OF MEETINGS

Public notices of every Annual General Meeting and of all Special General Meetings shall be given in both Great Gransden and Little Gransden at least 14 days (or, if the dissolution of the Association is to be proposed, at least 21 days) before the date of such meeting by written notice on the notice boards of the Association and the respective Parish Councils. Such notices shall specify the matters to be dealt with and the date, time and place of such meeting and, if any alteration to the Constitution is proposed, where the terms of such proposed alteration may be inspected.

18. FINANCE

- (a) All monies raised by or on behalf of the Association shall be applied to further the objects of the Association and for no other purposes
- (b) The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Association
- (c) The Accounts shall be audited at least once a year by qualified Auditor or Auditors who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting
- (d) An audited statement of accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting.

19. DISSOLUTION

If the Committee by a simple majority decides at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Association, it shall call a meeting of all members of the Association who have the power to vote, of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed thereat) shall be given. If such decision shall be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at such a meeting, the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Association. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution, or institution having objects similar to the objects of the Association, as the Committee may determine. In so far as effect cannot be given to such a provision then to such other charitable object as the Committee shall, with the approval of the Charity Commission, decide.