

Constitution of the Fruitful Malmesbury project

1. Name

1.1 The Name of the Group is Fruitful Malmesbury (FM)

2. Aims

The aims of the FM group are:

- 2.1. To create and sustain accessible community orchards in Malmesbury.
- 2.2. To manage the orchards and their environs sustainably without the use of harmful chemicals in accordance with organic principles and encourage biodiversity.
- 2.3. To promote health, well-being and community cohesion through food growing and networking activities.
- 2.4. To respect and respond to local social and environmental issues in the development and management of the community orchards.
- 2.5. To enable the local community to participate in the development and management of Malmesbury's community orchards and to be inclusive.
- 2.6. To consult with the local community endeavouring to include the opinions of all stakeholders.
- 2.7. To use, develop and increase the skills of local people in the development and management of Malmesbury's community orchards.
- 2.8. To share the harvest freely with the local community and utilise a fair proportion to sustain the project.

3. Power

- 3.1 The FM undertakes whatever activities are required to achieve its aims, including holding meetings, fundraising, setting up and managing bank accounts, producing a website, leaflets and newsletters and holding events.
- 3.2 To form partnerships with other groups in the interests of education, promotion, volunteer recruitment and resource sharing.
- 3.3 The Management Committee shall decide further powers as necessary.

4. Membership

- 4.1 Membership of the Group is open to all local residents who are supportive of the aims of the Group.
- 4.2 The FM believes in equal opportunity of membership and involvement in the Group and will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, political affiliation, disability or mental health.

5. Committee

- 5.1 The Committee consists of: Officers – a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer; and
- 5.2 a maximum of five other members including a horticultural expert and three others
- 5.3 50% of the committee or 4 members of the Committee, whichever is the greater, must be present at any meeting for it to be quorate.
- 5.4 The Committee has the power to co-opt additional members as required.
- 5.5 The Committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting.

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- 5.6** Voting is by a show of hands with a simple majority to decide. In the event of a tied vote that cannot be changed through discussion, the Chairperson has a second and casting vote.
- 5.7** The secretary keeps a record of all meetings to be written up and circulated as required.
- 5.8** The Committee meets at least four times per year with additional meetings as and when required.
- 5.9** The Secretary notifies all Committee members of forthcoming meetings, giving adequate notice to minimise non-attendance.

6. Annual General Meeting

- 6.1** An Annual General Meeting is held every year. 21 days' notice is given of the intention to hold an Annual General Meeting. No more than 15 months elapses between Annual General Meetings.
- 6.2** The Committee may call other general meetings as required.
- 6.3** At the AGM, the following business is conducted:
- 6.4** Report from the Committee on the work and achievements of the Group;
- 6.5** Election of the Committee;
- 6.6** Appointment of auditors;
- 6.7** Report from the Treasurer on the financial affairs of the group and receipt and approval of audited accounts for the financial year.

7. Finance

- 7.1** The Treasurer is responsible for keeping proper account of all monies and reports on financial matters to each meeting of the Committee in Annual General Meeting. Accounts are produced at each meeting.
- 7.2** All bank accounts opened in the name of the Group have three signatories who are the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. Any payments from accounts require two of three signatories one of whom has to be the treasurer
- 7.3** Once a year, the external auditors submit an audited statement of accounts for the last financial year. The financial year runs from 1 January to 31 December.
- 7.4** All monies received by or on behalf of the Group are applied to further the aims of the Group and for no other purpose.

8. Alterations to this Constitution

- 8.1** This Constitution may be rescinded or amended at any general meeting by a simple majority provided such an amendment has been circulated to all members at least 21 days beforehand.

9. Dissolution

- 9.1** The Group may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority at any general meeting provided that at least 21 days' notice stating this intention has been sent to all members. All monies remaining shall be given or transferred to a group with similar aims and objectives, to be agreed at the meeting where a resolution for dissolution of the Group is approved.