

## Grayshott Community Orchard Project (GCOP) Constitution

### 1. Name

1. The Name of the Group is Grayshott Community Orchard Project (GCOP)

### 2. Aim

1. To create, develop and maintain one or more Community Orchards for the benefit and enjoyment of local people, visitors and wildlife.

### 3. Objectives

1. To encourage community involvement in the development and management of the Community Orchard;
2. To create and maintain a community orchard that reflects local distinctiveness and includes fruits of known local heritage, where possible;
3. To grow and conserve a mix of varieties of fruit that can include apples, plums, pears, cherries and nuts;
4. To optimise the potential for wildlife;
5. To manage the Orchard as organically as practical;
6. To create and execute a management plan for the Orchard and annual work programmes, in consultation with orchard and wildlife experts, where appropriate;
7. To undertake or commission wildlife surveys/seek or pay for management advice as appropriate;
8. To endeavour to maintain sure, safe and easy access to the Community Orchard at all reasonable times;
9. To offer a place for recreation and quiet contemplation, where horticulture and wildlife management can be passed on/learnt and practised;
10. To grow a harvest of fruit that can be shared – as determined by the Management Committee – leaving some for wildlife;
11. To offer a host of activities from practical management and education to celebration and appreciating the harvest;
12. To raise awareness of the activities and the ethos of a Community Orchard;
13. To liaise with the Parish Council and trustees of the land which is in charitable ownership and any other parties that may have a legal interest in the land
14. To engage in such measures as from time to time seem appropriate to achieve these objects.

### 4. Powers

1. The Grayshott Community Orchard Project may undertake whatever activities are required to achieve its aims, including holding meetings, fundraising, setting up and managing bank accounts, producing leaflets and newsletters, holding events, consulting and raising membership subscriptions.
2. GCOP will operate as a not for profit organisation. Any financial surplus will be retained within GCOP for the sole purpose of furthering the objectives of the Project.
3. The Management Committee shall decide further powers as necessary.
4. GCOP will initially be an unincorporated association but the Management Committee is empowered to change this status in furtherance of its objectives.

### 5. Membership

1. Membership of the Group is open to all local residents and others who are supportive of the aims of the Group.
2. GCOP believe in equal opportunity of membership and involvement in the Project and will not discriminate between members and applicants for membership because of their gender, age, ethnic origin, colour, sexual orientation, nationality, place of residence, personal beliefs, religion, political affiliation, disability or mental health.
3. The Management Committee shall have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any individual who, by actions words or otherwise, undermines, or seeks to undermine, the objectives of the Project.
4. Any person shall receive membership of the Project upon being accepted by and giving their name and address to any member of the committee.
5. Membership fees may from time to time be levied.

### 6. The Management Committee and Officers

1. The Management Committee consists of:
  1. Three Officers – a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer ; and
  2. Up to six other members of the Grayshott Community Orchard Project, at least one of whom should be a Grayshott Parish Councillor representing the Grayshott community.
2. The Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies/co-opt additional members as required.
3. The Management Committee is elected at the Annual General Meeting.
4. The Chair and Officers of the Management Committee are elected by the Management Committee at its first meeting after the AGM.
5. Four Members of the Management Committee must be present at any meeting for it to be quorate, of whom at least two must be Officers.

6. The Committee shall decide when and where it will meet, with a minimum of two meetings per year, with adequate notice given to all Committee members, and a record of meetings and decisions shall be kept.
7. The normal term of office shall be two years, with one half of the Management Committee standing down after the first year.
8. Members of the Management Committee standing down in rotation may put themselves forward for re-election.
9. The Chair should stand down from that position after serving two years but may remain a member of the Management Committee if re-elected.
10. Voting: All questions arising at any meeting, with the exception of those affecting alterations to the Constitution, shall be decided by a majority of members present and voting at such a meeting.
11. No member shall exercise more than one vote except that in the case of an equality of votes the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

#### **7. Annual General Meeting**

1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held each year, and no more than 15 months may elapse between AGMs.
2. 14 days notice shall be given to all members, this notice may be given by email, by notice on any GCOP website and by posters on a Grayshott Village notice board. Postal notification to each individual member is not required.
3. Other general meetings may be called as required either by decision of a minimum of 4 Management Committee members or, if requested, by 15 individual members.
4. At the AGM the following business will be conducted:
  1. Report from the Management Committee on the work and achievements of the Project;
  2. Election of the Management Committee;
  3. Report on the finances of the Project, and receipt and approval of the accounts for the year;
  4. Appointments of Auditors or external validator.

#### **8. Finance**

1. The Treasurer will keep proper account of all monies, and will report to Management Committee at each meeting and to the AGM.
2. All bank accounts opened on behalf of the Project will be in the name of the Project and will require two signatures for any transaction. Three or four approved signatories will be arranged from members of the Management Committee, of whom at least two shall be Officers.
3. The annual statement of accounts will be externally approved or validated prior to submission to the AGM.
4. The financial year runs from April 1st to March 31st.
5. All monies received by or on behalf of the Project shall be applied in furtherance of the Aims and Objectives of the Project and for no other purpose.

#### **9. Alterations to the Constitution**

1. This constitution may be rescinded or amended at any General Meeting by a two thirds majority of those present, provided such a motion has been publicised by a poster at the Community Orchard, on a notice board in Grayshott village and on any GCOP website, that a copy of the proposed alteration has been made available to all members via internet or a central collection point, and that 14 days notice has been given.
2. Approval to changes of the Constitution must be agreed by Grayshott Parish Council if the Project is using land owned by the Council or land where the Council is a Trustee of a Charity owning the land.

#### **10. Dissolution**

1. The Project may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority at any General meeting, provided that such a motion has been publicised by a poster at the Community Orchard, on a notice board in Grayshott village and on any GCOG website, that the motion has been made available to all members via internet or a central collection point, and that 14 days notice has been given.
2. All monies remaining shall be given or transferred to Grayshott Parish Council for the maintenance of green spaces in Grayshott, to be agreed at the meeting where a resolution for dissolution is approved.

Constitution adopted by membership at a Special AGM on 15 December 2022

The Grayshott Community Orchard Project ( GCOP)  
Founded: November 2022. Constituted: 15 December 2022.

Chair:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Correspondence address: The Secretary

Banking correspondence to: The Treasurer