Friends of Swanpool Nature Reserve – Constitution

1) Introduction

Friends of Swanpool Nature Reserve (FoSNR), formerly known as Swanpool Forum, is a community volunteer organization established to assist in the management and conservation of the Swanpool Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The SSSI covers an area of a little under nine hectares, the majority of which is occupied by a brackish lagoon fed by the Bickland Stream and occasional incursions of sea-water via a tidal culvert.

Swanpool is the largest saline lagoon in Cornwall and one of the eleven most important in Britain. It is also the only British location for the rare bryozoan Victorella Pavida, commonly known as the trembling sea-mat. For these reasons the site was categorised as a SSSI.

The land is owned by Cornwall Council but may be leased to a third party. The SSSI status is conferred by Natural England which holds responsibility for ensuring the site is managed in a manner which conserves its special features.

The Swanpool SSSI forms the southern section of the Falmouth Green Corridor which follows the course of the Bickland Stream from Swanpool in the south to the Bickland catchment area in the north. Swanpool Forum, the name by which FoSNR was formerly known, was a founder member of the Falmouth Green Corridor Forum

2) Aims and objectives

- To conserve and enhance the Swanpool SSSI, its flora, fauna and wildlife habitats.
- To promote the SSSI and immediate surroundings as a place for practical conservation works, enjoyment and study through voluntary action for the benefit of the environment and community.
- To monitor the special features of the SSSI and record and report any observations which may indicate a threat to the ecological or environmental integrity of the SSSI.

- To protect the surrounding environment of the SSSI by monitoring any incursions and resisting inappropriate developments.

3) Membership

Membership of FoSNR is open to any individual or organisation which is keen and able to promote its aims and objectives. An application to join the ~~Forum~~ FoSNR will be reviewed and assessed by its current members; it will be endorsed if supported by a majority of those responding to a ballot of the whole group.

4) Organisation:

FoSNR meetings will be held at a frequency decided by its members
An AGM will be held at intervals of not more than 13 months.
The committee will elect a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who will serve until the next AGM when they may offer themselves for re-election.

Decisions at committee meetings shall be by consensus. If a vote on any issue should be necessary then this will be carried by a simple majority of those present.

A quorum for any meeting shall be five persons.

Notices of meetings shall be circulated by the Secretary giving a minimum of 7 days notice and attaching a meeting agenda. Minutes of meetings will be prepared and circulated by the Secretary within 14 days of the meeting.

The committee shall open and maintain a bank account, administered by the Treasurer. There shall be a minimum of two authorised signatories to the account. All expenditures by the FoSNR shall be approved at a properly constituted meeting or by a majority of those responding to an e-mail to all members.

All communications shall be by e-mail unless otherwise instructed by the committee.

5) Dissolution:

Upon the winding up, dissolution or transfer of responsibilities of the FoSNR the members or appointed representative(s) shall arrange for the payment of all debts, liabilities and other appropriate settlements. Any remaining funds shall be donated to a local conservation or nature charity as determined by Falmouth Town Council.

6) Adoption and Review:

Review and update of the Constitution shall be conducted as/when material changes are recommended by the members. In the absence of any such changes, a formal review shall be conducted at intervals not exceeding three years.

Any changes to the Constitution must be approved by a majority of those present at a properly constituted AGM or EGM and be recorded in the minutes.

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