

The Goring and Ilex Conservation Group

Constitution

1. The name of the Organisation shall be "The Goring and Ilex Conservation Group" (previously named as "The Ilex Conservation Group").
2. **Objectives:**

The Objectives of the Group shall be to secure the conservation and preservation of the beauty and present character of the Ilex Avenue and Sea Lane (Goring), the area known as the Goring Gap, the Plantation, and the Greensward. The Group may pursue other Objectives which the Committee may determine are appropriate for the conservation of Goring and significant developments elsewhere.
3. **Membership.**

All people who are interested in achieving the Objectives in paragraph 2 above are eligible to join the Group on payment of the annual membership fee as determined at each Annual General Meeting. Any increase in the rate of the membership fee may be proposed by the Committee and submitted to the Annual General Meeting for implementation in the following year. The Group shall be non-political.
4. **Officers and Committee.**

The management of the Group shall be vested in a Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting.

The Committee shall consist of up to 9 Members and be composed of 3 Officers and 6 Committee Members. Up to 4 additional Members may be co-opted onto the Committee at the discretion of the Committee. The Officers of the Group shall comprise The Chairman; Secretary, and Treasurer. These Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. A Vice Chairman (or Acting Chairman) may be elected by the Committee if required.

Sub-Committees may be convened by the Committee, consisting of co-opted Members for specific tasks, reporting back to the Committee.
5. **Meetings.**
 - 5.1 An Annual General Meeting of Members shall be held within fourteen months of the previous Annual General Meeting, but should not be later than nine months after the end of the preceding financial year ended on the 31st December. Every endeavour shall be made to advise all Members in writing at least ten clear calendar days before the date of the Meeting, giving the venue, date and time.
 - Nominations for the election of Officers and Committee Members should reach the Secretary at least four calendar days before the Meeting. Should insufficient nominations be received, vacancies may be filled at the Meeting.
 - At the Meeting, the Committee shall present a report of the past year's activities; A statement of accounts for the previous financial year ended on the 31st December; and the Officers and Committee, and the Auditor, for the next year shall be elected.- 5.2. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Committee or by written representation of not less than twenty Members. In each case seven calendar days' notice

of the purpose of the Meeting shall be given. Unless the Committee otherwise agrees, a Special General Meeting called by Members other than the Committee shall be financed by the Members calling the Meeting.

- 5.3. Committee Meetings may be called by the Chairman or Secretary. Committee Members shall receive notice of meetings at least seven days before the meeting. The quorum for Committee meetings is three Committee Members.

6. Rules of Procedure for meetings.

All questions that arise at any meeting shall be discussed openly and the meeting shall seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to. If a consensus cannot be reached a vote shall be taken and a decision shall be made by a simple majority of Members present. If the number of votes cast on each side is equal, the Chairman of the meeting shall have an additional casting vote.

7. Finances.

- 7.1. An Account shall be maintained on behalf of the Group at a bank agreed by the Committee. No expense shall be incurred in the name of the Group without the approval of the Committee. All cheque payments, and on-line payment requests, shall be signed by one of the two or more duly appointed Officers and/or nominated Committee Members. Adequate safeguards shall be in place. Records of income and expenditure shall be maintained by the Treasurer. An audited statement of accounts shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

- 7.2. Annual Liability and Trustee Indemnity insurance cover shall be in place each year, and the premium shall be paid by the Group.

8. Amendments to the Constitution

May be made only at the Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting called for that purpose. Any proposal to amend the Constitution shall require a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote.

9. Dissolution.

If the Group is wound up or dissolved, and after all its debts and liabilities have been satisfied there remains any property, it shall not be paid to or distributed among Members of the Group, but shall be given or transferred to some other group or groups having objects similar to the objects of this Group. Furthermore, the Constitution of such group or groups, must have similar restrictions on distribution of property in the event of their own dissolution. If that cannot be done, then distribution may be made to some other charitable object.

10. Interpretation of the rules of this Constitution.

In the event of any doubt, the Committee shall have power to decide upon the interpretation of the rules of this Constitution.

This Constitution was agreed at the Annual General Meeting of The Goring and Ilex Conservation Group

held on the 15th September 2022.

Kathryn Walker
Chairman

Robert Niall
Secretary