# **MARSH FARM FUTURES**

# BACKGROUND

**Background**

Marsh Farm Futures was set up in 2009 to plan and sustain the improvement made in the NDC areas beyond the 10 year Government funding and into the long term and maintain its assets, thereby sustaining and building on the improvements and benefits made in the area and protecting the investment made.

Marsh Farm Futures does not rely on public funds and it is therefore important to recognise that we are looking for Board Members who have the skills and the experience to run this organisation with limited resources and with a passion to make a lasting difference to the lives of residents in the Marsh Farm and the surrounding area.

#### Liabilities as a Director

The liability of the Directors is limited. If the company is wound up whilst you are a member or within one year after ceasing to be a member your liability will be up to a maximum of £1 towards the costs of winding up the company and liabilities incurred.

A director of a company may in certain circumstances be made liable for the debts of the company of which he is a director. This might result in the director being personally required to pay some or all of the company's creditors. Directors can be found guilty of wrongful trading if he or she carries on business when the director knows that it will not be possible for the company to avoid an insolvent liquidation. It is a defence for a director if he can demonstrate that when he became aware of the likelihood of an insolvent liquidation he took all possible steps to minimise the loss to creditors. However, resigning as a director does not necessarily absolve the director from responsibility.

# **MARSH FARM FUTURES**

# (1) BOARD MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES AND COMMITMENT

**Board Categories**

The Board will be made up of senior or suitably experienced representatives because of their experience of, skills in or understanding of working in the relevant sector. The membership of the Company will be as follows:

* + 1. three local Residents, nominated by the community assembly or through such other process as the Board shall determine;
    2. two business representatives, one of whom should be working in a business based on the Marsh Farm estate;
    3. two Councillors nominated by the Council;
    4. three other local stakeholders, at the reasonable discretion of the Board;
    5. one Young Person.

**Board Commitment**

The Board members will be required to make reasonable time available to attend Board meetings regularly. It is likely that this will include:

1. Board meetings that are likely to be in the evenings, once every two months
2. Attendance and/or support to advisory or working groups
3. Attendance at any necessary Away days or training

# **Marsh Farm Futures**

# (2) OBJECTS

The Objects of the Company are the promotion for the benefit of the public of

regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular in the

Area of Benefit) by all or any of the following means:

1 the relief of financial hardship:

2 the relief of unemployment:

3 the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed people, and providing unemployed people with work experience:

4 the provision of financial assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help:

(a) in setting up their own business, or

(b) to existing businesses:

5 the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms:

6 the provision of neighbourhood services for those who are in conditions of need and the improvement of neighbourhood services in the public sector or in charitable ownership provided that such power shall not extend to relieving any local authorities or other bodies of a statutory duty to provide or improve housing:

7 the maintenance, improvement or provision of public amenities:

8 the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance:

9 the provision of recreational facilities for the public at large or those who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances, have need of such facilities:

10 the protection or conservation of the environment:

11 the provision of public health facilities and childcare:

12 the promotion of public safety and prevention of crime:

13 such other means as may from time to time be determined subject to the prior written consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

# **MARSH FARM FUTURES**

# (3) Terms of Reference for the Board Members

**Purpose**

The primary purpose of the Board is to provide leadership for Marsh Farm Futures including directing its strategy and development and guiding its staff team.

**Requirements**

Below are some of the requirements of the board members. In addition to these, board members would be expected to use specific knowledge or experience they have to help the other board colleagues to reach sound decisions by reading papers, leading discussions, scrutinising issues and providing advice and guidance. Board members must:

* ensure that the board members and Marsh Farm Futures comply with its Memorandum and Articles of Association, Charity Law and any other relevant legislation or regulations in force
* ensure that the organisation pursues its objectives in line with its governing documents
* contribute actively in giving firm strategic direction to the organisation setting overall policy, defining goals, setting targets and evaluating performance
* protect and manage the property of the organisation, ensure the financial stability and proper investment of the organisations funds
* safeguard the good name and values of the organisation, to represent the organisation at functions and meetings as appropriate
* not spend money on activities which are not included in the organisations own objectives
* declare any conflict of interest while carrying out duties
* be collectively responsible for the actions of the organisation and fellow board members
* oversee the operation of the organisation, its projects, committees and any matters of policy or issues requiring decisions.
* abide by the organisations equal opportunity policy
* attend meetings and read papers in advance of meetings
* participate in other tasks as arise from time to time such as interviewing, appointing and supporting staff as well as fundraising
* keep informed about the activities of the organisation and wider issues, which affect its work
* work with other partners for the benefit of the organisation in particular statutory, voluntary and private organisations

**Collective skills and experience**

Marsh Farm Futures is not a public body, however alongside integrity, commitment to the organisation and its objectives as well as willingness to devote the necessary time and commitment to their duties, the board should aim to collectively adhere to the Nolan Principles (see below) and require skills and experience in the following:

* Setting targets, monitoring, training and evaluating performance
* Financial management, legal matters and fundraising
* Business and enterprise success
* Employment law, recruitment, and personnel management

**Duration**

Marsh Farm Futures Board has agreed a rotation policy and the Board want to get to a position where roughly one third of Directors stand down for election each year, based on those who have been on the Board the longest.  Once their three year term has been completed, Directors will be required to stand down (but may be reselected) at the AGM following the end of their three year period.

**Accountability**

The board will be independent and self governing but will be expected to fulfil the terms of reference as outlined above.

**The Nolan Principles -The Seven Principles of Public Life**

**Selflessness**

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

**Integrity**

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

**Objectivity**

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

**Accountability**

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

**Openness**

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

**Honesty**

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

**Leadership**

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.