



# Friends of Marble Hill Constitution

## 1. Name

The name of the Association shall be Friends of Marble Hill.

## 2. Object

The object of the Friends is to promote for the benefit of the local community and the general public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment of Marble Hill House and Park by, but not exclusively:

- a. community engagement and participation
- b. fundraising for Marble Hill House and Park
- c. promoting the heritage of Marble Hill House and Park
- d. promoting biological diversity
- e. promoting volunteering opportunities

## 3. Powers

The Friends shall have power to:

- a. engage, consult and involve the local community in planning, decision making and management of the site in collaboration with English Heritage
- b. develop beneficial partnerships and foster good relationships with the Council, site users and other relevant bodies
- c. encourage people from all sections of the community to use, enjoy and organise public social activities in the site as agreed by English Heritage
- d. engage in, support and coordinate research, publishing, education, advertising and other work for the furtherance of the above Object, providing that no activities of a permanent trading nature shall be undertaken by the Friends



- e. raise funds by events and other means for maintaining and improving Marble Hill House and Park and for projects jointly agreed with English Heritage

#### **4. Membership**

Membership shall be open to all individuals over the age of eighteen provided such individuals fully support the object and constitution of the Friends.

#### **5. Committee**

The Committee shall consist of the following Officers and Members: a Chair; a Treasurer (the Officers) and no more than 6 Ordinary Members. The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for a period of 12 months and be eligible for re-election. No-one shall hold office as an ordinary Member for more than four years consecutively. No-one shall hold office as Chair for more than 5 years consecutively. All officers must be members of the Friends.

#### **6. President**

The Committee shall have the power to appoint a President who will continue to hold such office until they resign or the Committee determines that they should relinquish their office. The President will promote the interests of the Friends, with particular reference to representing the Friends in its dealings with other bodies, subject always to the policies laid down by the Committee. The President may not be a member of the Committee but is entitled to be present and express views at any meeting of the Committee.

#### **7. Fees**

The fees to the Friends shall be proposed by the Committee and agreed at the Annual General Meeting held prior to the beginning of the Friends year on 1 October. Fees shall become due at the beginning of the Friends year. Members whose fees are 12 months in arrears shall be automatically excluded from membership.

#### **8. Meetings**

- a. General and Committee meetings may be held in person or by electronic means as the Committee may from time to time decide at their discretion. Decisions at meetings shall in all cases be by simple majority. In the event of any vote being tied the Chair shall have a casting vote.



- b. General Meetings: The Annual General Meeting of the Friends, of which at least 21 days notice shall be given to all members shall be held once a year. The Committee may at any time, and shall within 14 days after receiving a request in writing of any 20 members, summon a Special General Meeting of which not less than 14 days notice shall be given to each member, specifying the business to be transacted.
- c. Business of the AGM: The business of the AGM shall be to receive a report from the Committee; to receive the annual accounts and appoint the Examiner (who need not be a member); and to consider any proposal of which due notice has been given. The business shall also include the election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee for the coming 12 months.
- d. Committee Meetings: Committee meetings shall be held not less than twice in every year. 4 members shall constitute a quorum. In the absence of the Chair those present may elect a Chair for the meeting from among their number.

## 9. Finance

- a. All funds of the Friends shall be held, paid and applied as the Committee may direct within the object of the Friends. Pending such direction, all funds shall be held in a separate bank account in the name of the Friends with such Bankers as the Committee may from time to time direct.
- b. All expenditure from the Friends funds shall require invoices, vouchers or other documents. Transactions shall require authorisation by either the Chair or Treasurer up to £500. If above £500, two authorisations will be required.

## 10. Committee Powers & Duties

The Committee shall have the general management and direction of affairs of the Friends and in particular (but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing) may:

- a. nominate delegate(s) to serve on another body
- b. authorise payment of the whole or any part of the expenses of any member in or about the execution of any of their functions and duties on behalf of the Friends



- c. make, and from time to time vary, rules consistent with this Constitution
- d. fill any casual vacancy from time to time in the Committee's membership
- e. decline an application for membership or for renewal of membership.

#### **11. Alterations**

No alterations shall be made to this constitution except by, and with the authority of, a resolution submitted either as in clause 8(b) or not less than 14 days before a General Meeting. No alteration shall be made which would be inconsistent with the object of the Friends

#### **12. Notices**

Notices to members shall be deemed sufficiently served if sent by ordinary post or electronic means such as email to members.

#### **13. Registered address**

The registered address of the Friends shall be:

Friends of Marble Hill  
C/O Marble Hill, English Heritage  
Rangers Office,  
Marble Hill  
Richmond Road  
Twickenham  
TW1 2NL

#### **14. Winding-up**

The Friends shall not be wound up otherwise than by resolution of the members at a General Meeting. On winding-up, the Committee shall pay the surplus funds of the Friends towards Marble Hill or such body or bodies as the Committee shall in its discretion decide.

30 September 2020

(Approved by resolution of the Marble Hill Society AGM on 30 September 2020).