

## **Constitution for Kennington-Bethlehem Link**

**Agreed at the AGM of 12 November 2018**

1. The association shall be called: Kennington-Bethlehem Link.

### **2. Aims**

2.1 To promote and foster friendship and understanding between the people of Kennington in the London Boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark and those of Bethlehem, Palestine.

2.2 To promote and encourage linking projects between Kennington and Bethlehem particularly of a cultural, educational, interfaith and sporting nature.

2.3 To organise cultural events (e.g. films, music, talks) to raise awareness of the situation in Palestine in Kennington.

2.4 To encourage visits by individuals and groups to and from the linked areas, including children and young people and the development of personal contacts and by doing so to broaden mutual understanding of the cultural, recreational and educational activities of the communities in Kennington and Bethlehem.

2.5 To organise fund-raising activities to foster the aims of the Kennington-Bethlehem Link.

2.6 To endeavour to ensure that at least one project goes ahead each year between the two communities.

### **3. Membership**

3.1 Membership of Kennington-Bethlehem Link is open to all those interested in promoting the aims of the link between Kennington and Bethlehem.

3.2 All members will pay an annual subscription as initially agreed by the Managing Committee. The amount can be changed at an AGM. The annual subscription will be set from AGM to AGM.

### **4. Managing Committee**

4.1 The affairs of Kennington-Bethlehem Link will be administered by a Managing Committee elected from among the members of Kennington-Bethlehem Link at each Annual General Meeting. The Managing Committee will consist of a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 12 members.

4.2 The Managing Committee may gather and hold data (name, address, email contact, telephone, subscription details) with permission, of members of the Kennington-Bethlehem Link in order to communicate about the work of the Link.

4.3 Subject to the terms of this constitution the Managing Committee will have full authority to take any action they consider desirable to further the objectives of Kennington-Bethlehem Link. The Managing Committee also have power to withdraw membership from any members of the association. Any proposal to withdraw membership will be dealt with at a Special Meeting of the Committee called for that purpose and a Notice calling the meeting will specify the name of the member concerned. That member will have the right to be heard at the meeting and any motion to withdraw membership will only be effective if there is a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at the meeting in favour of the motion.

4.4 Nominations for membership of the Managing Committee will be made verbally or in writing at the Annual General Meeting. The nominee must consent to the nomination verbally or in writing before election. If there are no more nominations than there are vacancies all of the nominees will be declared

duly elected. If there are more nominations than vacancies the members of the Committee will be elected by a simple show of hands at the AGM.

4.5 Members of the Managing Committee will take office at the end of the Annual General Meeting at which they are elected and will hold office for up to two years, from AGM to AGM. They will be eligible for re-election.

4.6 The Managing Committee will elect from its members a Chairperson, a Vice Chairperson, a Secretary, a Treasurer, Vice Treasurer and such other office bearers as the Managing Committee may, in their discretion, consider necessary. Any two of these offices may, at the discretion of the Managing Committee, be combined. The Managing Committee can delegate to such office bearers such powers as they may deem appropriate. The Managing Committee have power to fill any casual vacancy in their number and any member so appointed will hold office until the end of the Annual General Meeting.

4.7 The Managing Committee can appoint, from the membership of Kennington-Bethlehem Link, Working Groups as they may from time to time decide and determine the powers, composition and terms of reference of any such groups. The life of any Working Group is determined by the life of the project.

4.8 The Managing Committee will also be entitled to co-opt to the membership of the Managing Committee or any Working Groups such persons whether or not members of Kennington-Bethlehem Link as they consider desirable but any such person is not be entitled to a vote in the event of a division at any meeting of the Committee or Sub-committee.

4.9 The Quorum of the Managing Committee will be four members and for meetings of any Working Groups, three members.

## **5. Meetings**

5.1 The Annual General Meeting the Kennington-Bethlehem Link will be held on a date agreed by the Managing Committee. 21 days prior to such date or as soon as possible thereafter, the Secretary will issue to all members notice of the meeting specifying the date, time and place and the items of business to be placed before the meeting and invite members to submit other agenda items. At the Annual General Meeting the Managing Committee will submit a report of the activities of the Association and the audited accounts for the preceding year.

5.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting can be called by the Secretary on the instruction of the Managing Committee or on a requisition to that effect signed by not fewer than nine members of Kennington-Bethlehem Link and specifying the matter(s) to be considered at such a meeting. An Extraordinary General Meeting will take place within 28 days of such an instruction being given or such requisition being made and be called on not less than 21 days' notice in writing. The calling notice will specify the matters to be discussed at the Extraordinary General Meetings.

5.3 Meetings of the Managing Committee will be held on such dates as may from time to time be approved by the Committee or by the Chairperson. The Secretary will give all members of the Managing Committee not less than seven clear days' notice in writing of the date, time and place of the meeting and of the items of business to be considered.

5.4 The Chair of Kennington-Bethlehem Link, will chair General Meetings and Managing Committee meetings; failing this, meetings will be chaired by the Vice Chair or by such other member of the Managing Committee as may be agreed by the members present at the meeting.

5.5 In the first instance decisions must be arrived at by consensus, until such a time that the Chair decides to call for a vote. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairperson of the meeting will have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote.

5.6 The Secretary will ensure that minutes are kept of all the General Meetings and Managing Committee meetings. Working Groups will provide notes of their meetings.

## **6. Finance**

6.1 All monies received on behalf of Kennington-Bethlehem Link will be kept in safe custody by the Treasurer and all cheques drawn on Kennington-Bethlehem Link account must be signed by any two of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer, Vice-Treasurer or Secretary.

6.2 The financial year of Kennington-Bethlehem Link will run from April to April.

6.3 The Treasurer will keep proper financial accounts of the finances of the association and submit audited accounts for the financial year at the Annual General Meeting .

6.4 An Auditor will be appointed each year at the Annual General Meeting.

6.5 The Treasurer will open such account or accounts with a bank or banks approved by the Managing Committee as the Committee may consider necessary or desirable.

6.6 Surplus funds from time to time may be invested by the Managing Committee at their discretion in accordance with the aims of Kennington-Bethlehem Link.

6.7 The Managing Committee have no power to borrow money or to incur a bank overdraft without the authority of the Association in General Meeting.

## **7. Voting**

7.1 Only members present at the meeting are entitled to vote.

7.2 Each individual member is entitled to one vote.

## **8. Amendment of the Constitution**

A General Meeting of Kennington-Bethlehem Link will have power to amend this Constitution provided that the nature of the amendment is specified in a notice to all members setting out the date, time and place of the meeting, and issued not less than 21 days prior to such date, that the amendment is approved by a majority of not less than two thirds of the votes recorded by members present at the meeting.

## **9. Dissolution of the Association**

9.1 A proposal to dissolve Kennington-Bethlehem Link can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership present

9.2 If the motion to dissolve Kennington-Bethlehem Link is successful the whole funds and assets of Kennington-Bethlehem Link after settlement of outstanding obligations, will be disposed of by the Managing Committee in the spirit of this Constitution to a cause that is consistent to that of Kennington-Bethlehem Link.

**November 2018**

