

Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community Constitution



1 **Name**

The community's name is **Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community** (the "**Community**")

2 **The purposes of the Community are:-**

The advancement and practice of the Jewish religion in accordance with the principles of liberal and progressive Judaism which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (a) the promotion of Jewish values such as social justice, communal harmony, peace and freedom, charity and good deeds, reflection and prayer.
- (c) the provision of Jewish religious services for the Members of the Community and their guests.
- (d) the advancement of Jewish education.
- (e) the support for other religious organisations (which shall include, but not be limited to interfaith work).
- (f) the provision of pastoral care.

Hereby collectively known as the purposes of the Community ("**Purposes**").

3 **The trustees**

The Community shall be managed by a committee of Members ("**Trustees**").

4 **Carrying out the Purposes**

In order to deliver the Purposes, the Trustees have the power to:

- (a) raise funds, receive grants and donations.
- (b) apply funds to carry out work on behalf of the Community.
- (c) co-operate with and support other organisations with similar Purposes.

At all times the Trustees will ensure their actions are lawful and do not bring the Community into disrepute.

5 **Membership**

- (a) The Community shall have members ("**Members**"):
 - i. who support and carry out activities for the achievement of the Purposes; and/or
 - ii. who benefit from the Purposes.
- (b) An individual may become a Member provided they:
 - i. apply to the Community using the form required by the Trustees (the "**Membership Form**"); and
 - ii. are approved by the Trustees, and
 - iii. have paid the relevant membership fees ("**Subscription**") for the current Jewish calendar year.

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- (c) Membership is non-transferable.
 - (d) Membership types are adult (“**Adult Members**”) and child (“**Child Members**”).
 - i. Adult Members may vote at the GM’s or become Trustees.
 - ii. Child Members may not vote at the GM’s or become Trustees.
 - iii. Child Members must be under the age of twenty-one (21).
 - (e) In relation to Subscriptions
 - i. Subscriptions need to be paid for each Jewish calendar year and are due on the first day of that year.
 - ii. Subscription types are single and family.
 - iii. The cost of a single Subscription will be thirty pounds (30 GBP) and a family Subscription will be forty pounds (40 GBP).
 - iv. A family Subscription allows (subject to successful membership approval by the Trustees)
 - 1. the lead applicant on a Membership Form to be an Adult Member; and
 - 2. a named partner on the Membership Form to be an Adult Member; and / or
 - 3. the children named on the Membership Form to be Child Members.
 - v. Any changes to definition and cost of the Subscription types must be approved at an AGM.
 - vi. On an exceptional basis, Trustees may collectively agree to waive a Member’s Subscription should they believe it is in the best interest of the Community.
 - (f) Membership is terminated if:
 - i. the Member dies.
 - ii. the Member resigns by written notice to the Community
 - iii. If a Member fails to pay their Subscription within six (6) months of it falling due and following two (2) written monthly reminders. For the avoidance of doubt, in total a minimum elapsed period of eight (8) months after the subscription was originally due.
 - (g) The Trustees may terminate or temporarily suspend a Members membership, if they believe it is in the best interests of the Community. The Member has the right to be heard by the Trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6 Annual and special general meetings

- (a) An annual general meeting (“**AGM**”) will be held towards the end of every Jewish Calendar year. As a minimum the meeting will consist of:
 - i. the Trustees presenting an annual report and the financial accounts.
 - ii. A vote to either re-elect individual existing Trustees or elect new ones. Any Adult Member may choose to stand for election as a Trustee
 - iii. Allocated time for Members to raise items for discussion and voting
- (b) If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the Constitution, or wind up the Community or wish to consult the Members on a specific decision outside of an AGM, they may call a special general meeting (“**SGM**”) so that Members can make a decision or approve a request raised by the Trustees.
- (c) Collectively AGM’s and SGM’s are known as General Meetings (“**GM**”)
- (d) The Trustees must provide Members with at least 14 days’ notice prior to calling a GM. The notice must include an agenda for the GM.
- (e) Minutes of GMs must be formally recorded and circulated to attending Members for approval.
- (f) There must be at least five (5) Adult Members present at any GM.
- (g) Every Adult Member attending a GM has one (1) vote per decision required with no proxy voting possible.

7 Trustee meetings and decisions

- (a) Trustees must hold at least four (4) management meetings (“**Steering Committee Meetings**” or “**SCMs**”) each year. Trustees will act by majority decision.
- (b) At least three (3) Trustees must be present at a SCM to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every SCM.
- (c) If a Trustees has a conflict of interest with regard to any matter, they must declare it to the other Trustees and refrain from involvement in the matter being discussed or decided.
- (d) Trustees may make reasonable additional rules and ways of working via policies (“**Policies**”) to help run the Community or comply with applicable law. Policies must not conflict with this Constitution. Policies must be defined within a written document which is reviewed and agreed at a SCM.

8 Money and property

- (a) Money and property of the Community must only be used for the Purposes.
- (b) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by any Member upon request.

- (c) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the Community, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
- (d) The Community's money must be held in the Community's bank account.
- (e) All cheques raised on the Communities bank account must be signed by two (2) Trustees.

10 General Provisions

- (a) After winding up the Community any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to an organization with similar Purposes to the Community. The organisation chosen by the Trustees needs to be approved by Members at an SGM.
- (b) No change to the Constitution can be made that would stop the Community being a Jewish focused community.

Services provided to the community in return for membership.
Lead by student/rabbi/baalei/experienced leader
A minimum per year/month/week

High holy days/ festival costs to be included in membership or charged separately?
Rosh HaShanna
Yom kippur
Succot
Channukah
Tu b'shvat
Tu b'av
Purim
Pesach
Yom HaShoah
Shavuot

