***Constitution***

**1. Name**

The name of the Association shall be “Raheny Business Association” hereinafter referred to as “The Association”.

**2. Objectives**

The Association is a non-profit organisation established for the purpose of fulfilling the following objectives:-

2.1. To promote Raheny as a major commercial areas.

2.2. To create fellowship and unity amongst our members.

2.3. To represent the members’ views on matters affecting the commercial life of the area.

2.4 To provide information to members.

2.5 To arrange suitable and appropriate social events for members and their guests periodically.

2.6 To engage, promote and expand fund raising activities for the purposes of expanding and improving the Association and its facilities and of pursuing its objectives.

2.7 To do all such other things as may be deemed incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objectives or any of them.

**3. Membership**

There shall be three categories of membership.

3.1. Ordinary membership: This shall be open to partnerships or limited companies (where the shareholders are locally engaged in the day to day management of the business) provided that said business is in the immediate Raheny Area.

3.2 Private member operating from home: This shall be open to sole traders operating their business from their home provided that said business is in the immediate Raheny Area.

3.2. Corporate Membership: This shall be open to limited companies or to other large corporate entities which are locally managed by persons other than their shareholders and which employ professional management, such businesses being located in the Raheny Area.

3.3. Honorary Membership: The committee shall have power to elect honorary membership, not exceeding five in number, for a period of one year. They will be renewable by resolution of the committee year to year. Persons who are already subscribing members shall not be eligible for election as honorary members.

3.4. A person or company shall, upon payment of the appropriate membership fee and upon acceptance of same by the committee and submission of a completed membership application form become a paid up ordinary/corporate member of the Association.

**4. Membership Fees**

The annual subscriptions and/or any entrance fees which shall be levied shall be payable by members in advance and shall be determined from time to time by the committee as they see prudent for the financial well-being of the association. No refunds of subscriptions shall be made in the event of members either resigning or being expelled.

Annual subscriptions will be invoiced in January each year and shall be due for payment on/before 31st Jan each year.

**5. Expulsion**

In a case where the conduct of any member shall, in the opinion of the committee, be injurious to the character or interests of the association the committee shall have the power to request such a member to resign. No member shall be requested by the committee to resign without first being given an opportunity to explain or excuse their alleged misconduct.

**6. The Committee**

The Association shall be run by the committee comprising of a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and a group of other elected Committee members numbering no less than 5 and no more than 10.

6.1 The committee shall be elected by ballot at the annual general meeting no later than tree months after the end of the financial year which shall be the calendar year.

6.2 The procedure for election of the committee shall be that the nominations shall be voted upon by those paid up members present at the AGM.

6.3 Elected committee members shall serve for 12 month period (based on RBA year) and no longer than 3 months after the end of that period. Committee must be elected each year at the AGM.

6.4 The committee may co-opt a member to the committee to fill a vacancy occurring during the year. Co-opted member may not become an officer of the committee during that year.

6.5 The committee shall meet not less than nine times per year.

6.6 The new committee shall meet within two weeks of the AGM for the purpose of taking over from the outgoing committee.

6.7 The committee has the power to employ a Co-Ordinator to facilitate the day to day running of the Association. The Co-Ordinator will be answerable to the committee at meetings and will take his/her instructions form the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer at other times. The Co-Ordinator will attend all committee meeting but is not entitled to vote on any issues which may require a majority decision.

6.8 Voting at committee meetings shall be confined to those members present. A simple majority shall be sufficient to carry any motion. In the event of a tie the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

6.9 The quorum for committee meetings shall be 6, one of whom shall act as chairperson in the absence of the elected chairperson.

6.10 Minutes of each meeting shall be recorded and circulated by the secretary and shall include a list of those present.

*6.11* The committee shall have responsibility for all monies received and all expenditure incurred by the association. All funds shall be applied solely in furtherance of the aims and objectives of the association.

6.12 The committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules and any bye laws made from time to time there under and the decision of the committee upon any question of interpretation of these rules or from any matter affecting The Association and not required to be exercised or done by the Association in general meeting or upon any matter affecting the Association and not provided for by these rules shall be final and binding on the members.

**7. Annual General Meeting**

The Annual General meeting of the Association shall be held within three months of the end of the financial year which shall be the calendar year. Notices of the AGM shall be sent to the members at least 10 days before the meeting.

7.1 Those entitled to vote at the AGM shall be paid up members of The Association. Only those present are entitled to vote and each member shall have only one vote.

7.2 Proposal to amend the constitution can only be made by those entitled to vote at the AGM and they should be notified to the secretary at least 10 days before the AGM and must be proposed by not less that 10 paid up members.

7.3 The accountants for the coming year shall be voted in at the Annual General Meeting.

**8. Extraordinary General Meeting**

An extraordinary general meeting of members can be convened upon written request to the Hon Sec by not less that ten members and must be held within six weeks of the request.

**9. Trustees**

9.1 The committee shall have the power to open bank accounts in the name of the trustees and to accept, borrow or raise money, by any legal means, in the name of the trustees for the purpose of the aims and objectives of the association

9.2 The committee, in the name of the trustees, have power to enter in agreements with local authorities, local resident s or community groups on behalf of the association

9.3 Borrowing power of the committee shall be determined by a majority vote of the members at a general meeting. Borrowing level cannot be exceeded without authority from further general meeting.

9.4 For the purposes of the association’s interest in property and investment, at least two trustees shall be appointed. Trustees shall appointed by the committee. The trustees shall deal with any property and investments of the association as directed by the committee and insofar as the assets of the association may be deficient they and the members of the committee shall be indemnified against liability and expenses incurred by them by reason solely of their position as trustees or members of the committee.

9.5 In all cases where documents are required to be signed by the trustees, the signature of both trustees shall be required.

9.6 Trustees shall hold office for a period of three years and thereafter shall be re-elected for each subsequent three year term.

**Conclusion**

It is expected that all members of The Association will have as their core value a commitment of the high quality service and integrity towards their clients and customers. And that in the execution of their daily work members will at all times be mindful of promoting the good name of Raheny Business Association in keeping with the aims of The Association.

The End

Adopted at AGM 25/01/2014