

WALKERS ARE WELCOME TOWNS NETWORK

CONSTITUTION

(Constitution adopted on Oct 24th 2010)

1. Adoption of the Constitution

1.1 The group and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provision in this constitution.

2. Name

2.1 The name of the group shall be “Walkers are Welcome Towns Network”, and hereafter referred to as “the Network”.

3. Objects

3.1 To encourage towns to seek “Walkers are Welcome” status, and to promote healthy recreational walking for the public benefit of local people and visitors.

3.2 To define, maintain and develop the “Walkers are Welcome” town concept and criteria.

3.3 To be responsible for ensuring that “Walkers are Welcome” towns continue to meet the criteria established nationally for “Walkers are Welcome” status.

3.4 To encourage “Walkers are Welcome” towns to improve facilities for walkers, including maintenance of existing footpaths and bridleways, and the creation of new ones, for the benefit of local people and visitors.

3.5 To act in partnership with the community, business, relevant groups, and local authorities to achieve these aims.

4. Powers

4.1 In addition to any other powers they have, the Network may exercise any of the following powers in order to further the objects (but not for any other purpose):

- raise funds, receive grants and donations
- employ paid staff or recruit volunteers
- receive contributions through a membership fee
- apply funds to carry out the work of the Network
- work in partnership with different organisations with similar objects
- do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the objects

5. Membership

5.1 Membership of the Network shall be open to all towns and communities who support the objects of the Network and who in the opinion of the Executive Committee demonstrate appropriateness to be a member community.

5.2 Each member town will be represented by their local “Walkers are Welcome” organisation.

5.3 Full membership shall be open to any town which has met the “Walkers are Welcome” criteria.

5.4 Associate membership shall be open to any town actively working to meet the “Walkers are Welcome” criteria.

5.5 There shall be an annual membership fee levied on application for membership or associate membership, which shall be decided at the General Conference.

5.6 The Network shall keep a register of names and addresses of the nominated key organisers for the member towns, which shall be available to any member on request.

5.7 The Network operates in accordance with its Equal Opportunities Policy and encourages members of the Network to be open and accessible to all in all matters pertaining to “Walkers are “Welcome””.

6. Income and Property

6.1 All income and property of the Network shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.

7. Executive Committee

7.1 The Network will be managed by an Executive Committee which shall be elected at the General Conference.

7.2 The Executive Committee shall retire with effect from the General Conference following their election, and shall be eligible for re-election at that General Conference.

7.3 The Executive Committee shall consist of a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and any additional officers as the Network may decide to a maximum of twelve to be elected at the General Conference.

7.4 The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two additional members, who will retire at the next General Conference.

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7.7 The Executive Committee will deem a fellow committee member to have resigned if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason.

7.8 The Executive Committee shall meet no less than three times a year by whatever means deemed necessary, for example in person or by teleconferencing.

7.9. No business shall be transacted at any committee meeting unless a quorum is present, which shall be three committee members, once of whom must be the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer.

7.10. The Chair shall have a casting vote when the numbers voting for and against a resolution are equal.

8. General Conference

8.1 A General Conference shall be held not less than once every 18 months and not more than once a year.

8.2 At least 14 days notice shall be given, unless otherwise agreed by all member towns entitled to attend.

8.3 The notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting, and general nature of the meeting.

8.4. The Executive Committee shall present the annual report and accounts.

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10.1 The Network's financial year shall commence 1 January and run to 31 December.

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12.1 No amendment may be made to alter Clause 3 (Objects).

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8.1 A General Conference shall be held not less than once every 18 months and not more than once a year.

8.2 At least 14 days notice shall be given, unless otherwise agreed by all member towns entitled to attend.

8.3 The notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting, and general nature of the meeting.

8.4. The Executive Committee shall present the annual report and accounts.

8.5 All General Meetings other than General Conference shall be called Special General Meetings, and the Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.

8.6 No business shall be transacted at any General Conference or General Meeting unless a quorum is present, which shall be five member towns or one tenth of the full membership, whichever is greater.

8.7 Meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been elected as Chair, or by another nominated member of the Executive Committee.

8.8 General Conference shall seek to take decisions by consensus (consensus being where all present agree or where those not in agreement agree to maintain no objection); where consensus is not possible decisions will be taken by majority voting where:-

8.8.1 all full member towns shall have voting rights of two votes.

8.8.2 all associate member towns shall have voting rights of one vote.

8.9 The Chair shall have a casting vote when the numbers voting for and against a resolution are equal.

9. Termination of Membership

9.1 Membership shall be terminated if the Network ceases to exist.

9.2 A member town shall be removed from membership by a resolution of the Executive Committee if it fails to meet the criteria of the Network or if it is considered to be in the best interests of the Network. The member town shall be given 21 days notice in writing of the meeting at which the resolution will be proposed, and will have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

10. Accounts

10.1 The Network's financial year shall commence 1 January and run to 31 December.

10.2 The Treasurer shall keep proper financial records and shall report regularly to the Executive Committee.

10.3 Accounts shall be subject to independent financial review at the end of the financial year.

11. Bank Accounts

11.1 All monies received shall be paid into a bank account in the name of the Network.

11.2 Cheques shall be signed by both the Treasurer and any one of the following: Chair, Secretary or one other committee member as agreed by the Executive Committee.

11.3 No signatories shall be related.

12. Amendments

12.1 No amendment may be made to alter Clause 3 (Objects).

12.2 No amendment may be made to Clause 6 (Income and Property).

12.3 This constitution may be amended at any General Conference, in accordance with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the member towns present and voting. The notice of the General Conference must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.

13. Dissolution

13.1 If the Executive Committee decides to dissolve the Network, then it shall call a Special General Meeting which can dissolve the Network by a two-thirds majority of the member towns present and voting.

13.2 If the Executive Committee no longer exists, any three member towns may call a Special General Meeting in order to dissolve the Network.

13.3 Any money and assets left after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be applied to purposes in keeping with the objects of the Network.

13.4 All books and documents of the Network shall be placed with such a person or organisation for safe keeping as the meeting shall decide.