

MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT FOOTPATH SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION AS AMENDED AT THE AGM ON 27TH MARCH 2019

1. NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Society shall be THE MALVERN HILLS DISTRICT FOOTPATH SOCIETY.

2. OBJECTS

- 2.1 The objects of the Society are:

- a. To promote a flourishing, recreational, walking club for the Malvern Hills District;
- b. To encourage people to enjoy recreational walking and to foster an understanding of the value of public rights of way in the countryside;
- c. To endeavour to safeguard access to the countryside by the preservation and improvement of public rights of way, especially those within Malvern Hills District as originally created in 1974 and in its current form;
- d. To foster among members a care for the welfare and protection of the countryside.

3. ACTIVITIES

- 3.1 In furtherance of these objects the Society may carry out any of the following activities:

- a. Organise a varied programme of walks;
- b. Cooperate with other organisations with similar aims and interests;
- c. Organise social events and Society holidays;
- d. Keep members informed about the Society's programmes and to publicise them more widely as appropriate;
- e. Maintain an archive of walk descriptions;
- f. Undertake Rights-of-Way activities:
 - (i) Monitor planning applications and highway orders as they affect the rights of way network, submitting objections and making representations to government departments and public inquiries as appropriate;
 - (ii) Report problems on rights of way to the local authorities and carry out practical improvements as appropriate.

4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Membership is open to all who support the ethos of the Society and pay the subscription.

- 4.2 PAID UP MEMBERS are those who have completed a form of application and paid the annual subscription for the current year.
- 4.3 SUBSCRIPTIONS shall become due on the first day of the Society's financial year (1st February to 31st January). The amount of subscription shall be approved by an Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- 4.4 PAID UP MEMBERS have the right to attend Annual and Extraordinary General Meetings (AGMs and EGMs); elect officers and stand for election; receive newsletters; and enjoy social functions, holidays and walks organized by the Society.

5. MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 Subject to the directions of any Society AGM or EGM as to the exercise of its powers, the management and control of the Society shall be vested in a Committee. The Committee shall consist of:

Four core Elected Officers:

Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Other Elected Officers:

Long Walks Organiser
Short Walks Organiser
Membership Secretary (including Publicity)
Newsletter Editor
Website Manager
Social Secretary
Rights-of-Way
No special responsibility

- 5.2 In addition each elected Officer on the Committee can bring Society members as supporters to provide specific advice and help in his/her specialist area and attend Committee meetings if required. These members would not be elected and would not have a vote.
- 5.3 All Committee members shall retire at the AGM. Elected Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- 5.4 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper financial accounts and shall keep the Committee informed as to the financial position of the Society.

- 5.5 A quorum for Committee meetings shall be SIX members of which at least TWO shall be core Officers.
- 5.6 The Committee shall have power to:
- a. Fill vacant Elected Officer posts by co-option, subject to election at the next AGM or EGM;
 - b. Invite anyone to participate, without voting rights, in debates on specific subjects;
 - c. Appoint working groups of society members, determine their powers and terms of reference, receive regular reports from them and dissolve them.
- 5.6 A Special Meeting of the Committee shall be called by the Secretary as soon as possible on the request of not less than SIX members of the Committee.
- 5.7 Each member of the Committee shall have a single vote. In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

6 GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1 In March of each year the Committee shall convene an AGM in order that the membership may:
- a. Receive the Annual Report of the Committee;
 - b. Receive the audited Statement of Accounts for the previous year;
 - c. Elect the Committee;
 - d. Appoint the Auditor(s);
 - e. Discuss, consider and vote on motions, notice of which shall have been given in writing to the Secretary no less than TWENTY EIGHT days before the AGM in order that they may be included as notices to the membership;
 - f. Propose matters for consideration and report by the Committee.
- 6.2 The Chairman and Secretary may at any time, and shall within TWENTY EIGHT days of receiving a request to do so signed by not less than one twentieth or twelve (whichever is greater) of the members and giving reasons for the request, call an EGM.
- 6.3 FOURTEEN DAYS NOTICE shall be given in writing by the Secretary for all General Meetings. The notice of the meeting shall contain details of the matters to be discussed and the terms of any motion which it is intended to move. A quorum for a General Meeting shall be one tenth or twenty, whichever is greater, of the membership.
- 6.4 Any motion which is deemed to be carried at a General Meeting shall take effect forthwith.
- 6.5 Voting shall be determined by a simple majority of members present and voting except where there is a change to the Constitution (see Clause 7). In the event of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

7. AMENDMENT TO THIS CONSTITUTION

7.1 Insofar as any alteration or amendment is not inconsistent with the objects of the Society, the Constitution may be amended at any General Meeting in accordance with the approval of a two-thirds majority of members present and voting. Any proposal for such alteration must be delivered in writing to the Secretary not less than TWENTY EIGHT days before the meeting of the Society at which it is to be discussed and not less than FOURTEEN days notice of this meeting shall be given to members of the Society, stating the terms of the proposed alteration.

8. DISSOLUTION

8.1 In the event of the dissolution of the Society, confirmed by a simple majority of members present and voting at a General Meeting of the Society, any assets remaining after satisfaction of its debts and liabilities shall be distributed in accordance with a lawful decision of the Dissolution Meeting to one or more organizations having similar objects.

9 REFUSAL OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

9.1 The Society reserves the right to refuse or terminate the membership of any person under the following circumstances:

(i) There is any money owed by the member to the Society in respect of membership or other fees after a time lapse of three months;

and/or

(ii) That a member act in a way which is prejudicial to the Society or brings it into disrepute.

9.2 Refusal or termination of membership to be secured by a two-thirds majority of all the Committee members. Notification of the Committee's decision shall be given in writing to the person concerned.

10 INTERPRETATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

10.1 If any dispute arises over the interpretation of this Constitution, the Committee shall consider the matter and their decision shall be final.