

## **RYEDALE WALKING GROUP**

### **GROUP CONSTITUTION**

*(Constitution adopted on 2 April 2009.)*

#### **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 and Area of Benefit**

- 2.1 The name of the group shall be “Ryedale Walking Group”, and hereafter referred to as “the Group”.  
2.2 The area of benefit shall be Ryedale and the surrounding area.

#### **3. Objects**

- 3.1 To encourage recreational walking and enjoyment of the countryside, for the public benefit of local people and visitors.  
3.2 To work and act in partnership with the community, local authorities and relevant groups to improve facilities for walkers, including maintenance of existing footpaths and bridleways.  
3.3 To encourage the public to respect, protect and enjoy the countryside.

#### **4. Powers**

- 4.1 In addition to any other powers, the Group may organise events and activities, and raise funds in order to further the objects to support the aims of the Group.

#### **5. Membership**

- 5.1 Membership of the Group shall be open to all people who wish to support the objects of the Group.  
5.2 There shall be an annual membership fee levied, which shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting.  
5.3 All members over the age of 18 shall have voting rights.  
5.4 All members under the age of 18 shall be accompanied by a parent or guardian on all walks.  
5.5 The Group shall keep a register of names and addresses of the members.

#### **6. Income and Property**

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

#### **7. Committee**

- 7.1 The Group shall be managed by a Committee which shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.  
7.2 Committee members shall have been members of the group for at least six months.  
7.3 Nominations for the committee shall only be accepted from those who have been members of the group for at least one year.  
7.4 The Committee shall retire with effect from the Annual General Meeting following their election, and shall be eligible for re-election at that Annual General Meeting.  
7.5 The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, plus up to a maximum of five, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.  
7.6 The Committee shall have power to co-opt up to two additional members and to fill casual vacancies.  
7.7 The Committee shall be from within the Group and shall be free from any pecuniary interest.  
7.8 The Committee will deem a fellow committee member to have resigned if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason.  
7.9 The Committee shall meet no less than twice a year.  
7.10 The Chairman shall have a casting vote when the numbers voting for and against a resolution are equal.  
7.11 No business shall be transacted at any committee meeting unless a quorum is present, which shall be four committee members, one of whom must be the Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.  
7.12 The Committee shall ensure that the Group has appropriate insurance.

## **8. General Meetings**

- 8.1 At least 14 days notice shall be given, unless otherwise agreed by all members entitled to attend.
- 8.2 An Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year.
- 8.3 The notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting, and general nature of the meeting.
- 8.4 All General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called Special General Meetings, and the Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.
- 8.5 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present, which shall be ten members or 10% of the full membership, whichever is greater.
- 8.6 Meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been elected as Chairman, or by another nominated member of the Committee.
- 8.7 The Chairman 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 member resigns, ceases to offer service, dies or if the Group ceases to exist.
- 9.2 A member shall be removed from membership by a resolution of the Committee if it is considered to be in the best interests of the Group. The member 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 Group's financial year shall commence on 1 October and run to 30 September.
- 10.2 The Treasurer shall keep proper financial records and shall report regularly to the Committee.
- 10.3 Accounts shall be subject to independent review at the end of the financial year, and be presented and distributed at the Annual General Meeting.

## **11. Bank Accounts**

- 11.1 All monies received shall be paid into a bank account in the name of the Group.
- 11.2 Cheques shall be signed by any two of four committee members as agreed by the committee, at least one of whom must be the Treasurer, Chairman or Secretary. The two signatories must not be related to each other.

## **12. Amendments**

- 12.1 No amendment may be made to alter Clause 3 (Objects).
- 12.2 No amendment may be made to alter Clause 6 (Income and Property).
- 12.3 This constitution may be amended at any General Meeting, in accordance with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.

## **13. Dissolution**

- 13.1 If the Committee decides to dissolve the Group, then it shall call a Special General Meeting which can dissolve the Group by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
- 13.2 If the Committee no longer exists, any four members may call a Special General Meeting in order to dissolve the Group.
- 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 Group.
- 13.4 All books and documents of the Group shall be placed with such a person or organisation for safe keeping as the meeting shall decide.