

Green Team - Mawdesley

Constitution

1. NAME:

The name of the organisation shall be the 'Green Team – Mawdesley' hereinafter referred to as the 'Organisation'

2. OBJECTIVES:

The objects of the Organisation shall be to act in a benevolent and charitable manner to encourage awareness of the harmful effects of global warming and to help the residents of Mawdesley and surrounding areas to achieve and enjoy an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

3. AIMS:

The Organisation will aim:

- a. to act as a network and source of information and support in matters concerned with promoting and delivering environmental sustainability in Mawdesley and surrounding areas
- b. to develop strategies for measuring and reducing the adverse environmental impact that the village of Mawdesley has on environmental sustainability
- c. to demonstrate, possibly with the help of fundraising activities, how existing and new technologies can increase the environmental sustainability of the village
- d. to work with other bodies with similar aims to exchange good practice, access resources and lobby for positive change to local, regional and national policy on various matters relating to environmental sustainability
- e. to become a self financing and fully autonomous body capable of providing independent, non prescriptive advice on environmental sustainability for the benefit of the residents of Mawdesley and the surrounding area
- f. to hold regular meetings and events to promote environmental sustainability.

The Organisation will be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion. The Organisation shall have the power to affiliate to other bodies with similar charitable objects and aims, providing its autonomous status and its freedom to pursue independent thought is not restricted.

4. MEMBERSHIP:

Full membership of the Organisation with voting rights will be open to any person aged 16 or over living in Mawdesley or the surrounding area. Junior membership will also be available to promote the aims of the Organisation to young people. To become a member, individuals need only complete a membership application form and pay any annual membership fee, if one is required. In the event that membership is refused, the applicant will be given the reasons in full in writing and be allowed appeal to the full membership of the Organisation.

5. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP:

In exceptional cases, the Management Committee shall have the right, for good and sufficient reason, to exclude from membership any individual member, provided that the individual member shall have the right to be heard by the full membership before a decision to terminate their membership is made.

6. MANAGEMENT:

The Organisation will be managed by a committee of between six and eight members [the Management Committee] elected each year at the Organisation's Annual General Meeting. The Management Committee will consist of three officers - a Chairperson, a Secretary and a Treasurer and the remainder will be general committee members. To promote the widest possible involvement in the running of the Organisation, no more than two members of any one family will be eligible to serve on the Management Committee at any one time.

The policy and general management of the affairs of the Organisation shall be conducted by the Management Committee. For a Management Committee Meeting to be quorate, there will need to be a minimum of four members present including at least one officer.

In addition, the Management Committee may co-opt further members as required. However, co-opted members shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Management Committee as defined above, and co-opted members will not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Management Committee.

The Management Committee shall aim to meet at least four times per year in addition to any general meetings.

If vacancies occur among its members, the Management Committee shall have the power to fill these from amongst the members of the Organisation.

All questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote. No member shall exercise more than one vote, but in the case of an equality of votes, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

7. FINANCE:

All monies raised by or on behalf of the Organisation shall be applied to further the objects of the Organisation and for no other purpose and will be paid into a bank account opened in the Organisation's name.

The Organisation shall operate a bank account in the Organisation's name through which all financial transactions, other than ones involving petty cash, shall be made. Three signatories will be nominated by the Management Committee to operate the bank account, one of whom will be the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall keep proper account of the finances of the Organisation which shall be open to scrutiny by any member, upon request.

Quarterly accounts will be presented to the Management Committee. The financial year of the Organisation will run from 1st January to 31st December each year.

All cheques from the Organisation's bank account will be signed by at least two unrelated members of the Group, one of whom should be the Treasurer wherever possible.

The accounts shall be audited or examined at least once a year by an auditor or any other independent person appointed by the membership, at the Annual General Meeting.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Once in each year, in the month of February, or as soon as practical afterwards, the Management Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting [AGM] of the Organisation for the purpose of:-

- a) receiving the Annual Report of the Management Committee and the audited or independently examined Statement of Accounts;
- b) electing the Honorary Officers and representatives of individual members to serve on the Management Committee;
- c) appointing auditors or independent examiners for the coming year; and
- d) considering, whenever necessary, proposals to amend this Constitution and other business of which due notice has been received.

In order to be quorate, at least 20% of the membership of the Organisation should be present at the Annual General Meeting.

9. EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING:

The Secretary of the Organisation shall within 28 days of receiving a written request to do so, signed by not less than ten full members of the Organisation having the power to vote and giving reasons for the request, call a Extraordinary General Meeting [EGM] of the Organisation for the purposes of discussing any matter which may be referred to it by the Management Committee or Membership.

10. NOTICE FOR GENERAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

The Secretary will provide notification to all members of the dates of the Annual General Meeting and any Extraordinary General Meetings that may be called, giving at least 14 days notice and details of the matters to be discussed at the meeting in the form of an Agenda, and details of any specific resolutions to be proposed and voted on at the meeting.

11. VOTING AT ANNUAL AND SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS:

Decisions taken at an AGM or EGM will be based on a simple majority of votes of those attending and entitled to vote.

12. DISSOLUTION:

In the event of the Organisation closing down, any assets remaining after settlement of any outstanding debts of the Organisation shall be donated to any charity or charitable Organisations dedicated to promoting environmental sustainability as may be decided by the membership at the meeting called to affect the dissolution of the Organisation.

13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may only be amended via a vote of members at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting. However no change to this Constitution will be allowed which will alter the benevolent and charitable aims of the Organisation as outlined in clause (2) above, nor to this clause or clause (12) dealing with the procedure to be followed with respect to the dissolution of the Organisation.

Any proposal to alter this Constitution must be delivered in writing to the Secretary of the Organisation not less than 28 days before the date of the meeting at which it is first to be considered.

Any alteration to the Constitution will require the approval of a two-thirds majority of members of the Organisation present and voting at a General Meeting. Notice of each such a meeting shall be given to all registered Organisation members not less than 14 days prior to the meeting in question and giving the wording of the proposed alteration.

14. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION

This Constitution was adopted at the Inaugural Meeting of the Organisation held at the Black Bull Public House in Mawdesley on 21st May, 2008.

Signed by the elected Chairperson

Rod Collins

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21st May, 2008

And witnessed by two Members attending;

(SIGNED) Joanna Woodhouse

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&

(SIGNED) Joy Heggie

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