

Example Constitution (Governing Document)

This outline sets out the basic requirements of a governing document for voluntary Groups.

CONSTITUTION OF:

ADOPTED ON: _____ [Day/Month/Year]

1 Name

The name of the Group shall be:
(hereinafter referred to as 'the Group')

2 Aims

The aims of the Group shall be to:

3 Powers

In order to achieve its aims the Group may:

- a. Raise money
- b. Open bank accounts
- c. Take out insurance
- d. Employ staff
- e. Acquire and manage buildings
- f. Organise courses and events
- g. Work with other groups and exchange information
- h. Do anything that is lawful which will help it to fulfil its aims

4 Membership

The members of the Group shall be defined as follows:



- i. Membership of the Group shall be open to any person over 18 or any organisation living or located in the area who is interested in helping the Group to achieve its aims, willing to abide by the rules of the Group and willing to pay any subscription agreed by the Management Committee.
- ii. Every individual member and each organisation shall have one vote at General Meetings.
- iii. The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Management Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Management Committee before a final decision is made.
- iv. Each member organisation shall appoint a representative to attend meetings of the Group and notify the Group's Secretary of that person's name.

5 Management

- i. The Group shall be administered by a Management Committee of the Officers and not more than ____ other members elected at the Group's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- ii. The Officers of the Management Committee shall be: the Chair, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- iii. The Management Committee shall meet at least ____ times a year.
- iv. The Chairperson shall Chair all meetings of the Group.
- v. The quorum for Management Committee meetings, without which no decisions shall be made, shall be _____ members.
- vi. Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chair shall have a second vote.
- vii. The Management Committee may by a two-thirds majority vote and for a good and proper reason remove any Committee member, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.
- viii. The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.

6 Duties of the Officers

- i. The duties of the Chair are to:
 - chair meetings of the Committee and the Group
 - represent the Group at functions/meetings that the Group has been invited to
 - act as spokesperson for the Group when necessary
- ii. The duties of the Secretary are to:
 - take and keep minutes of meetings
 - prepare the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Group in consultation with the Chairperson



- maintain the membership list
 - deal with correspondence
 - collect and circulate any relevant information within the Group
- iii. The duties of the Treasurer are to:
- supervise the financial affairs of the Group
 - keep proper accounts that show all monies collected and paid out by the Group

7 Finance

- i. Any money obtained by the Group shall be used only for the Group.
- ii. Any bank accounts opened for the Group shall be in the name of the Group.
- iii. Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official.

8 Annual General Meeting

- i. The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) normally in the month of _____.
- ii. All members shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the A.G.M. and shall be entitled to attend and vote.
- iii. The quorum for an AGM without shall be _____ members.
- iv. The business of the A.G.M. shall include:
 - a) receiving a report from the Chair on the Group's activities over the year
 - b) receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Group
 - c) electing a new Management Committee and
 - d) considering any other matter as may be decided.

9 Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or by any _____ members to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote.

10 Alterations to the Constitution

Any changes to this Constitution must be agreed by at least two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting.

11 Dissolution

The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.



12. Adoption

This constitution was adopted at a general meeting of the Group on

_____ [date]

Signed by:

Chair:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Other Committee members:

(This document is available as a template, without NCVA branding in Word format)