

SMALL CHARITY CONSTITUTION

Suitable for small charities with an annual income of under £5,000 that don't own a building or employ people and do not intend to register with the Charity Commission.

1 NAME

The charity's name is Friends of the Wrekin

2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:-

To protect, preserve, promote and work for the good of the Wrekin hill area by working in partnership with local people, groups, and landowners.

3 TRUSTEES

The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) apply for funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
- (4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5 MEMBERSHIP

The charity shall be open to membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over can apply to the trustees to become a member. Once accepted by the trustees, membership lasts for 3 years and may be renewed. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member in question has the right to a meeting with the trustees before a final decision is made. They may be accompanied by a friend to the meeting.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days' notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (2) There must be at least ___ members present at the AGM.
- (3) Every member has one vote.
- (4) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (5) Any member may stand for election as a trustee.
- (6) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

7 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

- (1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
- (2) At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (4) During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.
- (5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8 MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
- (3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
- (4) Money must be held in the charity's bank account. All cheques must be signed by 2 trustees.

9 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or dismantle the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that all members can be involved in decision-making. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from a majority of the members. All members must be given 14 days' notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two-thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

- (1) **Winding up** - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.
- (2) **Changes to the Constitution** - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.
- (3) **General Meeting** - called on written request from a majority of members.
- (4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership.

