

CONSTITUTION – QUANTOCK ECO

1. NAME

- 1.1. The Group shall be called QUANTOCK ECO.

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. The Group's purpose is to initiate, lead and facilitate local activities which will address environmental concerns in our community, and to share both ideas and results with like-minded communities in our region.
- 2.2. Its task will be to raise awareness of these concerns through practical projects for individuals, groups or the whole community, and through encouraging changes in lifestyle and technology which will result in a sustainable environment.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1. Membership shall be open to anyone who wishes to help promote the Purpose of the Group.
- 3.2. Membership shall be established on payment of the annual membership fee.
- 3.3. The membership fee shall be set annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.4. Where it is thought appropriate for furthering the Purpose of the Group, an organisation with similar aims may be invited by the Executive Committee to become an Affiliated Member.
- 3.5. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, elect a Patron or Patrons.
- 3.6. All Members shall be entitled to hold office on the Group's Executive Committee.
- 3.7. A Member's membership may be terminated by resignation or shall be deemed to have lapsed if the annual membership fee remains unpaid after four months.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- 4.1. The Executive Committee shall govern the activities of the Group and do all that is necessary to fulfil its Purpose, and any other tasks which may be determined by the general membership at an AGM.
- 4.2. The Executive Committee shall be:
 - 4.2.1. **Chairman**
 - 4.2.2. **Vice Chairman**
 - 4.2.3. **Secretary**
 - 4.2.4. **Treasurer**
 - 4.2.5. **Five Committee Members**
- 4.3. The Executive Committee shall be as representative as is practical of the three Quantock Districts (Sedgemoor, Taunton Deane and West Somerset) from which the majority of its members are drawn.
- 4.4. The Executive Committee shall consist of up to eleven members.
- 4.5. The Officers of the Executive Committee shall be the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary.
- 4.6. All members of the Executive Committee shall retire each year and be eligible for re-election.
- 4.7. The Chairman and other Committee Members shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.8. The Executive Committee will in private session appoint the remaining Officers from amongst its members.
- 4.9. The Executive Committee may, at its discretion, co-opt a fellow member to join in its deliberations.
- 4.10. The Executive Committee shall be convened by the Chairman of the Group as often as is necessary.
- 4.11. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.

- 4.12. The quorum required for business to be agreed at Executive Committee meetings will be five of its members.

5. THE GROUP'S FINANCE

- 5.1. All Group monies shall be banked in an account or accounts held in the name of the group.
- 5.2. The financial year of the Group shall be 1st April to 31st March.
- 5.3. The Group's accounts shall be audited annually.
- 5.4. An Auditor shall be appointed annually at the AGM.
- 5.5. Any cheques drawn against Group funds shall be signed by two of the following Officers to whom powers to sign have been granted by the Executive Committee: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer.
- 5.6. All these signatories shall be responsible for the finances of the Group.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

- 6.1. Notice of Annual General Meetings shall be given by the Secretary with not less than 21 clear days notice to all members.
- 6.2. The quorum at an Annual General Meeting shall be 10% of the total number of members.
- 6.3. If at the end of 30 minutes after the time appointed in the notice for the opening of an AGM there is no quorum, the meeting shall stand down and adjourn for one week.
- 6.4. If at such subsequent meeting there is no quorum those members present shall be competent to discharge the business of the meeting.
- 6.5. The agenda for an Annual General Meeting shall include:
 - 6.5.1. Confirmation of Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting
 - 6.5.2. Adoption of the Chairman's Annual Report
 - 6.5.3. Adoption of Treasurer's Statement and Audited Accounts
 - 6.5.4. Election of the new Executive Committee
 - 6.5.5. Appointment of an Auditor
 - 6.5.6. Determination of the annual Membership Fee
- 6.6. Nominations for the Chairman and Executive Committee Members shall be made to the Secretary before the AGM. Otherwise nominations will be made at the AGM and a vote shall be taken if necessary.
- 6.7. All Members have the right to vote at the AGM.
- 6.8. The Executive Committee may call Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs) outside the AGM, should the need arise.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 7.1. Any proposal to amend the Constitution must be received in writing by the Secretary at least 14 days before the AGM or EGM at which it is to be discussed.
- 7.2. The Constitution may only be amended through agreement by majority vote of members present at the AGM or EGM.

8. DISSOLUTION

- 8.1. A resolution to dissolve the Group can only be passed at an AGM or EGM through a majority vote of the membership.
- 8.2. In the event of dissolution any assets of the Group will be distributed in support of an Eco cause as determined by the wishes of the majority of the membership present at the Dissolution AGM or EGM.
