

Constitution of the Friends of Quantock

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be "Friends of Quantock."

2. CHARITABLE STATUS

The Association is a registered charity No. 242398.

3. BOUNDARIES

The boundaries of the Quantocks for the purposes of the Association shall be those of the Quantock Hills AONB, with freedom for the Committee to include other areas that in its view are important to the Quantocks for any particular purpose.

4. TRUSTEES

The trustees of the charity shall be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, and the elected members of the Committee (see below).

5. OBJECT

The object of the charity is to safeguard the landscape and natural environment of the Quantock Hills. In doing so, wherever there is a community of interest, to work with the Quantock Hills AONB service, local landowners, the Quantock commoners and other bodies with similar interests, but maintaining complete independence of other organisations and representing only those with an interest in the special qualities of the natural landscape and environment of the Quantocks.

6. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Association shall be open to individuals and organisations that have paid an annual subscription on the scale set by the Committee.

Where the member is not an individual, the organisation shall appoint one person to represent them and he or she shall be entitled to a single vote on behalf of the organisation.

Membership may be terminated at the discretion of the Committee if the subscription has not been paid by 1st January the following year.

Only paid up members shall vote at any General Meeting or be entitled to take part in the requisition of a Special General Meeting.

7. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President(s), Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. The Officers shall be nominated by the Committee and elected annually at the AGM and shall be ex-officio members of the Executive Committee, and of any other committees and sub-committees as may be appointed.

8. COMMITTEE

a. Membership

The Association shall be managed by a Committee comprising (i) the Officers (ii) not more than eight members elected annually at the Annual General Meeting, (iii) a representative nominated by the Quantock Hills AONB and (iv) not more than 4 members co-opted by the Committee from time to time for their special knowledge or abilities.

Nominations for the Committee shall be made either by the Committee or in writing by any member with a Seconder and accompanied by the consent of the nominee, and shall reach the Secretary not less than four days before the Annual General Meeting.

Co-opted members shall automatically cease to be members of the Committee at the next AGM and shall not be entitled to vote.

Any committee member failing to attend at least one meeting in the year shall not be eligible for re-election.

Four shall form a quorum. In the event of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a second and casting vote.

In the event of the death, resignation or default of any Officer, the Committee may elect an alternate to serve until the next AGM.

b. Responsibilities

The Committee shall have full responsibility for the management of the Association and its financial affairs. They shall maintain a bank account in the name of the Association and, if considered appropriate, may maintain a reserve and invest this in suitable funds.

In carrying out its responsibilities the Committee shall have due regard to the charitable status of the Association and any relevant guidance from the Charity Commission.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Membership subscriptions shall be such amounts as are determined from time to time by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

Subscriptions shall be due on 1st September each year, except in the case of new members joining during the six months ending on that date, whose subscriptions shall be deemed to cover the ensuing financial year.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Association shall be held at a time and place that the Committee decides.

Fourteen days' notice in writing shall be given to each member together with a copy of the annual report and accounts.

It shall be the business of the Annual General Meeting to receive the annual report, to pass the accounts, to elect the Officers and Committee, and to transact any other competent business of which notice has been given.

Members wishing to propose a resolution must give seven days' notice in writing to the Secretary, giving the name of the Proposer and a Secunder.

Fifteen members shall form a quorum for any General Meeting and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.

11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

A Special General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Chairman and two other Officers, by the Committee, or by twenty-five members of the Association, giving fourteen days' notice to members and specifying the matters to be decided. No other business shall be considered at such a meeting.

12. RULES

These rules may only be altered or changed if the Committee so decides and a proposal to that effect giving full details of the proposed changes is passed at a general meeting of the Association.

13. DISSOLUTION

The Association shall not be dissolved except by resolution of three-quarters of those present at a Special General Meeting called for the purpose.

In the event of a proposed dissolution, any surplus funds of the Association shall be disposed of in such way, being in conformity with the objectives of the Association, as the Committee shall decide.