

CONSTITUTION – LONG MYND AND DISTRICT BRIDLEWAYS ASSOCIATION.

1) NAME.

The Association shall be known as The Long Mynd and District Bridleways Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

2) PURPOSE.

The purpose of the Association is:-

- a) To lobby for the improvement and creation of safer off-road riding.
- b) To establish where bridleways and other rights of way (i.e. byways open to all traffic and unclassified county roads) exist, that can be used by the ridden or driven horse within the area of the Association.
- c) To have surveyed all those rights of way described above, to establish their condition and to note any obstructions or unsafe sections and to report the survey's findings to the appropriate Highway authority. To encourage, and assist where appropriate, the Highway authority to carry out its statutory duty of maintaining and improving access for horse riders and carriage drivers on these routes.
- d) To submit claims to the appropriate Highway authority for the upgrading of paths not currently defined on the definitive map as bridleways or byways where evidence exists that such paths should be so defined. Also, submit to the appropriate Highways authority suggestions for the creation of paths which would improve the bridleways network (and not unreasonably affect other interests) without necessarily having to find evidence of previous use.
- e) To lobby the Highways authority to improve the safety and suitability of classified roads, particularly when such sections of the road or road crossings form an essential part of a desirable "community circuit".
- f) To establish good relationships with landowners, occupiers and Local Authorities (County and Parish Councils) in order to promote the interests of riders and carriage drivers, while at the same time keeping on good terms with other path users such as ramblers and cyclists.
- g) To promote awareness of the network of bridleways amongst members and communicate interesting rides and routes in the area for members to explore.
- h) To promote the ideals of safe riding and road safety amongst members and riders generally.
- i) To co-operate with appropriate organisations on any project that will enhance off-road riding within the area of the Association.

3) GENERAL.

In furtherance of the above mentioned purposes, the Association shall have the following powers:-

- a) The Association may raise funds by the way of contributions, subscriptions, donations or grants or any other lawful method for or towards the purposes of the Association.
- b) To do all such lawful things necessary for the attainment of the purposes of the Association.

4) MEMBERSHIP.

a) Membership is open to any persons wishing to advance the purposes of the Association subject to approval from the Committee (who reserve the right to veto any application for membership should it be deemed unsuitable).

There are the following categories of membership:-

i) Adult membership.

ii) Family membership (maximum two adults and their children up to the age of 18 years, living at the same address). Family members shall receive one copy only of any newsletter, notices or correspondence which the Association may issue from time to time.

iii) Junior membership – up to the age of 18 years.

Please note that junior members should always be accompanied on Bridleways rides by a parent or guardian. Junior riders to be competent to ride at all gaits within a group.

b) Each adult member is entitled to one vote. No applicant is entitled to vote until their application for membership has been accepted.

c) Members shall pay the prescribed subscription fee on acceptance of application for membership and thereafter annually in advance by the first day of October. The prescribed subscription fee shall be established at the Annual General Meeting.

d) A member may resign from the Association at any time by giving notice in writing to the Secretary.

e) In the event that a member has not paid their annual subscription within ONE month after it becoming due then the person's membership is assumed to have terminated.

5) COMMITTEE.

a) The Association shall be managed by a committee of officers, consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, along with the Local Group Co-ordinators for each of the areas. Where appropriate, the Committee may co-opt additional members, or members to replace any who resign, but the maximum number of the Committee members, including officers, shall be 16.

b) Committee officers shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting. All posts shall come up for re-election annually.

c) The Committee will normally meet four times a year. Seven members of the Committee shall be the quorum. Each member of the Committee shall be entitled to one vote. In the event of equality, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

6) GENERAL MEETINGS.

a) The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held each year and within fifteen months of the preceding Annual General Meeting. Notice of 21 days shall be given to the membership. Reports will be presented by the Chair and the Treasurer along with a statement of the Association's annual accounts. Matters arising shall be decided by a simple majority vote of those present from the membership. Each

adult paid-up member attending shall have one vote. The Chair will have the casting vote in the case of equal voting.

b) Election for the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will take place at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for these posts must be received in writing by the Secretary 14 days prior to the AGM. Nominees must agree to stand and must have signed the nomination form in person, stating that they agree to stand. They also must have been a paid-up member of the Association for one full year at least.

The Secretary will inform members by email of the nominations.

Those voting at the AGM should be fully paid-up adult members. No proxy votes will be allowed. Postal votes in writing must be received by the Secretary 7 days prior to the AGM.

Votes will take place by secret ballot.

c) An Extraordinary General Meeting can be called whenever desirable at 14 days written notice. Matters arising shall be decided by a simple majority of those present from the membership. Each member attending shall have one vote.

7) FINANCES.

a) The Committee and the Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances and a bank account shall be opened in the name of the Association into which all monies shall be paid and applied for the use of the Association.

The bank account will have online facility for which the Treasurer will have the main access code in order to facilitate transactions. Two other members of the Committee, usually the Chair and the Vice Chair, will also have an access code “to view” the account. For the Treasurer to make payments online or by cheque (which only requires one signature) he/she must first obtain approval from one other nominated member of the Committee. Three members of the Committee to be nominated for this task – usually the Chair, Secretary and Vice Chair.

b) The Association shall levy subscriptions and other payments for the general purposes of the Association.

c) The Accounts of the Association shall be subject to annual checks. This assessment to be carried out by a qualified, independent assessor to be appointed by the Committee.

8) WINDING UP.

If members of the Association decide to close the Association, then its assets after payment of all outstanding debts and liabilities shall be given to charitable associations or associations with similar aims as determined by the membership.

9) COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE.

Complaints need to be in writing to the Committee – who will then investigate, note in the minutes of the quorate meeting and respond in writing.

10) AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

No amendment to the constitution shall be made except at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose. Any amendment shall require the majority vote of the membership who are present at the meeting.

* Constitution as amended adopted at the AGM on 11th October 2018.

