

CONSTITUTION of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE

An Unincorporated Not-For-Profit Association

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be "WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE"

2. Area

The initial area covered by WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall be Wyre Forest District including Bewdley, Kidderminster, Stourport and surrounding parishes.

3. Aims of the Wyre Forest Green Alliance.

- a) To provide a means for local groups to work together on local projects and initiatives to support our local communities in a way that makes them more resilient to the impacts of climate change, improve social inclusion, to improve and protect the local environment and support the local economy in ways that are sustainable.
- b) To work with, support and challenge Local Authorities at all levels to put climate change and the ecological emergency at the heart of their remits and to play their part in making the Wyre Forest area more sustainable and to move to a low-carbon economy.

4. Means

- a) To provide a means of communication between all groups in the area to enable them to support each other and work together on sustainability initiatives.
- b) To provide systems and processes to enable all the organisations involved to promote what they are doing to the wider public
- c) To establish regular dialogue with Wyre Forest District Council and with appropriate groups of District Councillors and Officers to ensure that Council policies and actions take account of the need to address carbon reduction and sustainability in the district.
- d) To work with Officers and Elected Representatives of the District Council and other Local Authorities to encourage them to inform, educate and support the people of Wyre Forest District to lead more sustainable lives in a way that reflects the scale of the environmental challenge.
- e) To establish a regular dialogue with Town Councils, Parish Councils and County Council to make them aware of all the organisations in the area that can work with them and if necessary, challenge them for the benefit of their local communities.

5. How we work

- a) Hold regular meetings where representatives of appropriate local organisations can help shape the future development of the Wyre Forest Green Alliance.
- b) Help organise and support events and activities in order to inform, educate and enable individuals and communities to be more sustainable and resilient.
- c) Provide a voice for local groups, organisations and individuals to express their concerns about the environment and climate emergency to businesses and local and national Government at all levels.

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1. POWERS

In pursuance of these aims, WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE may:

- a) Publish and distribute information and comment
- b) Undertake, support or promote, education and research
- c) Raise funds
- d) Run events
- e) Recruit volunteers
- f) Employ staff
- g) Buy or lease premises and equipment
- h) Enter into contracts
- i) Undertake any trade, business, enterprise, project or venture which could contribute to the delivery of the aims and objectives.
- j) Participate in any other legal activity that could help deliver the stated aims and objectives.
- k) Appoint sub-committees/working parties for specific tasks or activities.

1. MEMBERSHIP

- a) All WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE member organisations shall be admitted without reference to wealth, politics, religion, sex, disability, age or sexual preference, work or operate in the area described in rule 2 and who are in agreement with the stated aims and which contribute in some way to the “One Planet Principles” of Sustainability. Membership is also open to small businesses that have an explicit commitment to sustainability. The Alliance is non-party political but local groups of Political Parties can join provided they have policies that support sustainability and environmental protection.
- b) All WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE members shall support and uphold the provisions of the [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) adopted and proclaimed by United Nations General Assembly resolution 217 A (III) of 10 December 1948.
- c) Each member organisation will nominate up to 3 of their members to represent them at General meetings and to receive communications from the Alliance which they will then pass on to their wider membership as appropriate.
- d) Organisations may be asked to pay a membership fee or donation to the Alliance as decided by the Steering Group.
- e) Individuals can become “supporters” of the Alliance. The steering group will agree on the level of donation requested. Supporters have no voting rights.
- f) A member organisation shall cease to be a member if the appropriate management group of that organisation informs the steering group that the organisation wishes to withdraw.
- g) Or is requested to resign by three-quarters of members of The Steering Group voting to this effect;
- h) Any member Organisation expelled shall be entitled to appeal against the expulsion at an Extraordinary General Meeting.

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2. NOT FOR PROFIT

WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall not trade for profit. Any surplus funds shall:

- a) be deposited in a general reserve for the continuation and development of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE;
or, subject to a formal resolution of the WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE general meeting,
- b) be paid, in part or in full, as payment to any member in return for services rendered, for reasonable wages, bonuses and repayments of expenses, interest on money borrowed, or reasonable rent on premises let to WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE;
- c) be donated, in part or in full, to another organisation or community group in pursuance of the aims of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE.

3. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) The running of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE is subject to regular review and all members are encouraged to participate.
- b) WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall, in each calendar year, hold a General Meeting as its Annual General Meeting. This may be virtual or in person.
- c) Additional General Meetings may be held as part of other meetings for member organisations or if called for by at least one of the nominated representatives of 30% of member organisations.
- d) An Annual General Meeting must be called with at least twenty-one days' notice to all members, unless half of all the nominated representatives of member organisations entitled to attend and vote decide on shorter notice. This shorter notice must still be given to all members.
- e) Each member organisation will have one vote.
- f) The Annual General Meeting must consider accounts, balance sheets, the reports of the accountants/book-keepers, and the appointment of, and the fixing of the remuneration of, the accountants/book-keepers.

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4. ELECTED OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

- a) The Annual General Meeting shall appoint a treasurer and a secretary.
- b) The Annual General Meeting may decide to delegate the day-to-day management of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE to a management committee, which will be known as the "Steering Group"
- c) The "Steering Group" may appoint roles to members to perform duties and may delegate powers as necessary.
- d) The "Steering Group" will report its past activities to each Annual General Meeting.
- e) The "Steering Group" will be composed of all officers elected by general meeting together with all members elected by general meeting to serve as "Steering Group" members.
- f) Each member organisation can nominate a maximum of two of their members to serve on the "Steering Group".
- g) The "Steering Group" will comprise up to 8 elected members. If there are more than 8 nominees then election by vote (one vote per nominated representative of each member organisation) will take place at the General meeting.
- h) The "Steering Group" can co-opt other members as they see fit.
- i) The Steering group can set up working parties to work on specific projects. Membership should include at least one member of the steering group and other individuals with appropriate skills and interests.
- j) The treasurer shall be responsible for keeping a true record of accounts as stated in rule 12(a).
- k) The secretary shall be responsible for:
 - i. giving proper notice of all general meetings.
 - ii. receiving items for inclusion on the agenda of general meetings up to three days before said meeting.
 - iii. keeping proper records as stated in rules 9(a) and 9(b).
 - iv. May delegate the keeping of minutes to other volunteers

5. RECORDS

- a) WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall keep a register of member organisations and their nominated representatives and members appointed to roles or committee memberships.
- b) WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall keep minutes in which the dates, times and places of general meetings, along with decisions reached during those meetings and members present at those meetings are noted for all members to refer to.

6. ACCOUNTS

- a) WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall keep a record of the sum and nature of expenditure and receipts of monies, all sales and purchases of goods and all its assets and liabilities.
- b) The records, including accounts, shall be kept in a place decided by the general meeting, and shall always be open to the inspection of all members at reasonable hours and by other persons authorised by WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE in general meeting.

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7. INDEMNITY

Every Member or auditor or officer of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE shall be indemnified out of the assets of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE against all losses or liabilities incurred by him/her in or about the execution and discharge of the duties of his/her office, except to the extent that such losses or liabilities shall be attributed to either:

- i. fraud or other matters in respect of which such person concerned shall be convicted of a criminal offence; or
- ii. negligence; or
- iii. actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of such person.

1. SECONDARY RULES, BYLAWS AND STANDING ORDERS

Rules, bylaws and standing orders can be made by WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE in general meeting and/or by those officers or committees that have been delegated authority by general meeting so long as any rules, bylaws and standing orders do not conflict with this constitution or the will of the general meeting.

2. CHANGING RULES

- a) Any rule in this constitution can be dropped or changed or a new rule made at a General Meeting where all members have been given 21 clear days prior notice of the change proposed and the date, time and location of the general meeting, except Rules 8 (not for profit), 15 (changing the rules) and 16 (dissolution), which shall not be changed.
- b) A General Meeting that will consider a new or changed rule cannot be called with less than 21 days notice as described in rule 9(d) but must be called with the full twenty-one days notice.

1. DISSOLUTION

In the event of winding up or dissolution of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, the assets remaining shall be given or transferred to some other not for profit organisation chosen by the members and having aims similar to those of WYRE FOREST GREEN ALLIANCE.

Approved by WFGA Steering Group. 2nd November 2022