

BRIDGNORTH AND DISTRICT RIGHTS OF WAY ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

WORKING VERSION: approved by the committee. To be accepted at the first AGM.

1 Title

- 1.1 The Association shall be called `The Bridgnorth and District Rights of Way Association`.

2 Aims

- 2.1 To facilitate, encourage and assist in the monitoring and maintenance of rights of way in Bridgnorth and (in collaboration with) neighbouring parishes.
- 2.2 To identify any changes to the rights of way network that would improve the network, benefiting landowners and users.
- 2.3 To help minimise damage to crops and livestock, in collaboration with the farming community.
- 2.4 To lobby Shropshire Council and other bodies in support of the above aims.
- 2.5 To involve all users of rights of way, including walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders.
- 2.6 To define and promote walks in the area.

3 Focus and relationship with neighbouring parishes

- 3.1 The Association will, as a minimum, run the Parish Path Partnership (P3) for Bridgnorth. It will only work with or in other parishes in agreement with those parishes.
- 3.2 Some neighbouring parishes run P3 groups, in which case the Association will defer to the P3 group for the relevant parish, whilst seeking to collaborate to improve the overall network.
- 3.3 These P3 groups may choose to participate in the Association as voting Parish Members. A parish may withdraw from membership by giving three months' notice.
- 3.4 Parishes without a P3 group may choose to address P3 issues through an agreement with the Association and to participate in the Association as voting Parish Members.

4 Membership

- 4.1 Any interested person can join the association as an Individual Member.
- 4.2 Parish Members should appoint an individual to represent them and vote on their behalf.
- 4.3 The Secretary will hold an up to date Membership list.
- 4.4 Every member will be notified of this Constitution, which will be available on the Association's web site, and be bound by it in relation to any Association activities.

5 Annual General Meeting

- 5.1 An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held each year with no more than 14 months between AGMs. At least 14 days' notice of the date, time and place shall be given to all members. A Quorum will be 3 officers of the Association and 3 other members.
- 5.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) will be convened at the request of not less than 6 members, in writing to the Secretary, and at least 14 days' notice of a time, date and place and of the business to be transacted will be given to all members. A quorum will be 3 officers of the Association and 3 other members.
- 5.3 Amendments to this Constitution must be resolved by a majority of the members voting at an AGM or EGM.
- 5.4 If a membership subscription has been agreed, only fully paid up members may vote at meetings.

6 Association committee and committee meetings

- 6.1 The Committee will comprise; the Chair, Secretary, Working Group Secretary (responsible for coordinating, but not organising or leading, working groups) and Treasurer, plus up to 4 ordinary members.
- 6.2 The Committee may co-opt members if fewer committee members than stated above are elected or if a committee member stands down. Members will be notified of co-opted committee members.
- 6.3 Bridgnorth Walking, Running and Cycling Clubs, Bridgnorth Town Council and Shropshire Council may nominate non-voting representatives to the committee, who may also stand for election as committee members.
- 6.4 The Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting or at an Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 6.5 Committee meetings will be held as deemed necessary by the Chair and convened by the Secretary. A quorum will be 3 officers of the Association.

7 Financial arrangements

- 7.1 By approving this Constitution, the members give permission for the Committee to open bank accounts for the Association.
- 7.2 Funding will be sought from relevant bodies and others to cover permissible costs.
- 7.3 The Committee may propose a membership fee, which must be approved by a majority of the membership, to cover costs not covered by the above.
- 7.4 The annual membership subscription, if any, will be due by 1st January. Members not having paid by the 1st March will be removed from the membership list.
- 7.5 The Association's financial year will end on 31st March. The Treasurer will provide a report to the AGM on the Association's finances for the preceding year.
- 7.6 An Independent Examiner must be appointed at each AGM to undertake a review of the Association's financial records.

8 Parish meetings

- 8.1 Meetings of the Parish Members may be called to consider relevant issues. Decisions made at these meetings will apply only to the parishes involved and will not be binding on the Association or its members. However, the Association will take note of any such decisions and will be bound by any agreements entered into with parishes.

9 Association Rules for Activities

- 9.1 The Committee, Programme Secretary or activity leader may change the activity on the programme according to the circumstances or weather prevailing at the time.
- 9.2 Permission will be obtained from the landowner, often via Shropshire Council, before any work is carried out.
- 9.3 A Risk Assessment will be available on the Association web site, which should be modified for each activity if necessary.
- 9.4 Participants in Association activities do so at their own risk, subject to any insurance provided. The Association, its elected officers and activity leaders do not accept responsibility for any personal accident or loss of property.
- 9.5 Activity leaders must ensure that participants are aware of the insurance cover provided for their activity, and that any training required for specific equipment has been passed by each participant using that equipment.
- 9.6 Participants are expected to be suitably equipped for activities. An activity leader who is of the opinion that a participant is not adequately equipped may refuse to allow that person to take part.
- 9.7 Activity leaders must check that the Association's generic risk assessment is sufficient to their activity and for noting any additional risks and controls.
- 9.8 The Committee have the right to suspend membership on a breach of these rules, or any other action prejudicial to the well-being of the Association.
- 9.9 Participants should observe the Countryside Code.
- 9.10 No dogs may be brought to any activity.

10 Insurance

- 10.1 Insurance for activities will be provided, initially via Shropshire Council. The Committee may obtain equivalent or additional insurance as considered necessary. Members and participants will be informed of the level of cover (either overall or for a specific activity) and agree to participate at their own risk, under the level of cover provided.

11 Dissolution of the Association

- 11.1 If it becomes necessary for the Association to be dissolved this must be resolved by a majority of the members at an AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting.
- 11.2 Any remaining monies in any Association Bank accounts, once all expenses have been paid, are to be donated to an appropriate charity, or otherwise, as resolved by a majority of the members.