

WELLINGTON WALKERS ARE WELCOME

GROUP CONSTITUTION

(Constitution adopted on 19th April 2010, amended on 2nd July 2017)

1. Adoption of the Constitution

- 1.1 The group and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provision in this constitution.

2. Name

- 2.1 The name of the group will be “Wellington Walkers are Welcome Group”, and hereafter referred as “the Group”.
- 2.2 The area of benefit will be Wellington town and surrounding area.

3. Objects

- 3.1 To develop Wellington as a “Walkers are Welcome” town, and to encourage recreational walking in the Wellington area, for the public benefit of local people and visitors.
- 3.2 To be responsible for ensuring that Wellington continues to meet the criteria established nationally for “Walkers are Welcome” status.
- 3.3 To work to improve facilities for walkers, including maintenance of existing footpaths and bridleways, and the creation of new ones.
- 3.4 To act in partnership with the community, business, relevant groups, and local authorities to achieve these aims.

4. Powers

- 4.1 In addition to any other powers, the Group may organise events and activities, and raise funds in order to further the objects to support the aims of the Group.

5. Membership

- 5.1 Membership of the Group will be open to all people who wish to support the objects of the Group.
- 5.2 There will be no membership fee levied, but membership will be by service.
- 5.3 All members over the age of 18 will have voting rights.
- 5.4 The Group is an Equal Opportunities organisation.

6. Income and Property

- 6.1 All income and property of the Group will be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.

7. Management Committee

- 7.1 The Group will be managed by a Management Committee which will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 7.2 The Management Committee will retire with effect from the Annual General Meeting following their election, and will be eligible for re-election at that Annual General Meeting.
- 7.3 The Management Committee will consist of a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and up to five others, to a total of eight, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. Some of the committee may be appointed as other officers e.g. Footpath Secretary, Publicity Secretary, Footpath Maintenance Group Organiser. In addition Wellington Town Council may appoint a representative.
- 7.4 The Management Committee will have power to co-opt up to two additional members and to fill casual vacancies.
- 7.5 The Management Committee will be from within the Group and will be free from any pecuniary interest.
- 7.6 The Management Committee will deem a fellow committee member to have resigned if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason.
- 7.7 The Management Committee will meet no less than three times a year.

8. General Meetings

- 8.1 An Annual General Meeting will be held once a year.
- 8.2 At least 14 days notice will be given, unless otherwise agreed by all members entitled to attend.
- 8.3 The notice will specify the date, time and place of the meeting, and general nature of the meeting.
- 8.4 All General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings will be called Special General Meetings, and the Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.
- 8.5 No business will be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present, which will be five members.
- 8.6 Meetings will be chaired by the person who has been elected as Chair, or by another nominated member of the Management Committee.
- 8.7 The Chair will have a casting vote when the numbers voting for and against a resolution are equal.

9. Termination of Membership

- 9.1 Membership will be terminated if the member resigns, ceases to offer service, dies or if the Group ceases to exist.
- 9.2 A member will be removed from membership by a resolution of the Management Committee if it is considered to be in the best interests of the Group. The member will be given 21 days notice in writing of the meeting at which the resolution will be proposed, and will have the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

10. Accounts

- 10.1 The Group's financial year will commence 1st April and run to 31st March.
- 10.2 The Treasurer will keep proper financial records and will report regularly to the Management Committee.
- 10.3 Accounts will be subject to independent financial review at the end of the financial year.
- 10.4 At the AGM an Independent Examiner will be appointed.

11. Bank Accounts

- 11.1 All monies received will be paid into a bank account in the name of the Group.
- 11.2 Payments, including cheques, will be authorised by any two of four signatories, who will include the Treasurer, and three other committee members as agreed by the committee.

12. Amendments

- 12.1 No amendment may be made to alter Clause 3 (Objects).
- 12.2 No amendment may be made to Clause 6 (Income and Property).
- 12.3 This constitution may be amended at any General Meeting, in accordance with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.

13. Dissolution

- 13.1 If the Management Committee decides to dissolve the Group, then it will call a Special General Meeting which can dissolve the Group by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.
- 13.2 If the Management Committee no longer exists, any four members may call a Special General Meeting in order to dissolve the Group.
- 13.3 Any money and assets left after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities will be applied to purposes in keeping with the objects of the Group.
- 13.4 All books and documents of the Group will be placed with such a person or organisation for safe keeping as the meeting will decide.