

THE RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE FOOTPATH SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1. The Name of the Society is the Ringwood and Fordingbridge Footpath Society.
2. The objects of the Society are:-
 - a) To protect the interests of all users of all public paths in the parishes of Breamore, Damerham, Ellingham Harbridge and Ibsley, Fordingbridge, Godshill, Hale, Hyde, Martin, Ringwood, Rockbourne, Sandleheath, Whitsbury and Woodgreen especially by ensuring (i) their reasonable maintenance and freedom from obstruction and (ii) their adequate signposting and where necessary waymarking.
 - b) To urge local authorities to discharge their responsibilities with regard to public paths.
 - c) To foster and maintain friendly co-operation between path users and landowners local authorities and the rural community generally.
3. Membership of the Society shall be open to both single and family members the annual subscription being related to the type of membership. Applicants for membership shall provide to the Membership Secretary such information as is necessary to enable him to maintain adequate records.
4. The Officers of the Society shall be:-
 - (i) a Chairman
 - (ii) a Vice Chairman
 - (iii) a Secretary
 - (iv) a Treasurer

Each officer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and shall hold office until the next following Annual General Meeting when he shall be eligible for re-election.

5. The Society shall also elect at its Annual General Meeting in each year an Auditor who shall hold office until the next following Annual General Meeting when he shall be eligible for re-election.
6. The Management of the Society shall be entrusted to a Committee consisting of the Officers of the Society and not fewer than three (3) nor more than seven (7) other members of the Society elected annually at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall meet at such times as it shall determine and at all meetings of the Committee the quorum shall be three (3) of whom one shall be either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman. In addition the Committee shall have power to appoint from among its own members individuals to perform such other offices or functions as it in its discretion thinks fit.

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7. The Committee shall have power at any time and from time to time to co-opt other members of the Society and to fill any casual vacancy among the Officers and the Committee. Any person so co-opted shall hold office until the next following Annual General Meeting and any officer or member of the Committee appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall also hold office until the next following Annual General Meeting. Any such person shall be eligible for re-election or re-co-option.
8. The Committee may at its discretion propose for the approval by those members present at an Annual General Meeting the nomination of a President of the Society and not more than three (3) Vice Presidents to hold office for such term as the Committee determines. Such appointments shall be made to recognise significant or exceptional service to the Society. The President and any Vice Presidents shall not by virtue of such appointment be members of the Committee.
9. (a) The Society's annual subscription shall be such amount as the Society shall from time to time at its Annual General Meeting determine.
(b) Any person (or family) joining the Society between 1st January in any year and the Annual General Meeting in that year and paying the then current rate of subscription shall be entitled to membership of the Society until the Annual General Meeting held in the following year.
10. Subscriptions shall become due on the day of the Annual General Meeting. If any member shall fail to pay his subscription after the Annual General Meeting at which it shall have been fixed and become due he shall be reminded that his subscription is in arrear and if after receiving such notice he shall fail to pay his subscription within a reasonable period the Committee shall be entitled to terminate his membership without further notice. Notices in respect of the payment of subscriptions may be given in the Society's Newsletter "Waymark".
11. Full accounts of the financial affairs of the Society duly audited by an auditor appointed at the Annual General Meeting for that purpose shall be presented to each Annual General Meeting of the Society. The Society's financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December.
12. An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held in March of each year at which the following business shall be transacted:-
 - a) The presentation and passing of the accounts for the financial year ended on the 31st December prior to the meeting (which accounts shall have first been audited by the Society's Auditor) and fixing of the subscription for the then current year.
 - b) The election of the officers in accordance with the provisions of Clause 4 hereof and of the Committee and of the Auditor.
 - c) Such other business as shall have been communicated to the Secretary no later than the preceding 30th November and which shall then be included in the notice of the meeting sent by him to the members.
 - d) Any other matters at the Chairman's discretion.

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13. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at any time by the Committee and shall be convened within twenty-one (21) days on the requisition of not fewer than thirty (30) members of the Society. Such requisition must state the purpose for which such meeting is required.
14. The Secretary shall at least fourteen (14) days before a General Meeting send or deliver to every member a written notice of the meeting stating the date and time thereof, the place where it shall be held and the business to be conducted.
15. The business at a General Meeting shall be limited to that provided by these Rules and those further matters set out in the notice convening the meeting. The quorum at any General Meeting shall be twenty (20).
16. If he shall be present the Chairman of the Society shall preside at all meetings of the Society. If he shall not be present the Vice Chairman of the Society (if he shall be present) shall preside. If he shall not be present the members present shall choose one of their number to be the Chairman of the meeting.
17. At all meetings of the Society each member shall have one vote save that the Chairman of that meeting shall in the case of equality of votes but not otherwise have a second or casting vote. All the votes shall be by show of hands unless the Chairman of that meeting shall otherwise determine.
18. Any member may resign his membership by giving to the Secretary notice in writing to that effect. If such notice is given before the Annual General Meeting to be held for the year in which it is given then such resigning member shall not be liable to pay his subscription for that year.
19. The Committee shall have power to expel any member who shall offend against the rules of the Society or whose conduct shall in the opinion of the Committee render him unfit for membership of the Society. Before any such member is expelled the Secretary shall give him seven (7) days written notice to attend a meeting of the Committee and shall inform him of the complaints made against him. No member shall be expelled without having an opportunity of appearing before the Committee and answering the complaints made against him.
20. The Committee may invite local organisations which have aims and objects similar to those of the Society or which are interested in and prepared to subscribe to such aims and objects to affiliate to the Society on the following terms:-
 - a) Each affiliated organisation shall be asked to undertake to support the aims and objects of the Society and the work of the Society to the best of its ability.
 - b) Each affiliated organisation shall pay an affiliation fee upon a scale agreed from time to time by the Society's Committee.
 - c) Each affiliated organisation may at the discretion of the Society's Committee be invited to send one or more representatives to serve on the Society's Committee or to attend the whole or part of any meeting of the Society's Committee where business of direct or indirect concern to such affiliated organisation is to be discussed

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- d) Each affiliated organisation shall be entitled to send its officers and Committee members to the Society's Annual General Meeting or to any other General Meeting of the Society provided that at such Meeting each affiliated organisation shall be entitled to only one vote.
- 21. No alteration or addition to these rules shall be made except by a resolution carried by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting the notice of which shall have contained particulars of the proposed alteration or addition.
- 22. The Society shall be dissolved if at any General Meeting of the Society a resolution for its dissolution shall be passed by a majority of the members present and voting provided that :-
 - a) Not less than four weeks written notice of the meeting has been given to each member of the Society,
 - b) Such notice indicates that a resolution calling for the dissolution of the Society will be moved at the meeting and
 - c) Not less than one third of the members of the Society are present at the meeting. For the purposes of this rule each unit of family membership of the Society shall be deemed to comprise two members.

On the passing of such resolution the Committee shall thereupon proceed to realise the property of the Society and after the discharge of all liabilities shall pay the same to such charitable or other non profit making organisation as the Committee shall determine which has aims or objects relating to the preservation or improvement of open spaces public rights of way or places of historic interest or natural beauty or the encouragement of the use of the same.
