

PICKERING WALKERS ARE WELCOME

GROUP CONSTITUTION

(Constitution adopted on 20 January 2009)

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 and Area of Benefit

- 2.1 The name of the group shall be “Pickering Walkers are Welcome Group”, and hereafter referred as “the Group”.
2.2 The area of benefit shall be Pickering town and surrounding countryside extending to Goathland to the north, Kirkbymoorside to the west, Allerston to the east and Malton to the south.

3. Objects

- 3.1 To develop Pickering as a “Walkers are Welcome” town, and to encourage recreational walking in the Pickering area, for the public benefit of local people and visitors.
3.2 To be responsible for ensuring that Pickering 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 promote an annual walking festival.
3.5 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 shall be open to all people who wish to support the objects of the Group.
5.2 There shall be no membership fee levied, but membership shall be by service.
5.3 All members over the age of 18 shall have voting rights.
5.4 The Group shall keep a register of names and addresses of the members, which shall be available to any member on request.

6. Income and Property

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

7. Steering Committee

- 7.1 The Group shall be managed by a Steering Committee which shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
7.2 The Steering Committee shall retire with effect from the Annual General Meeting following their election, and shall be eligible for re-election at that Annual General Meeting.
7.3 The Steering Committee shall consist of a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and any other officers as the Group may decide to a maximum of six, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
7.4 The Steering Committee shall have power to co-opt up to two additional members and to fill casual vacancies.
7.5 The Steering Committee shall be from within the Group and shall be free from any pecuniary interest.
7.6 The Steering Committee will deem a fellow committee member to have resigned if they fail to attend three consecutive meetings without good reason.
7.7 The Steering Committee shall meet no less than three times a year.

8. General Meetings

- 8.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year.
- 8.2 At least 14 days notice shall be given, unless otherwise agreed by all members entitled to attend.
- 8.3 The notice shall 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 shall be called Special General Meetings, and the Steering Committee may call a Special General Meeting at any time.
- 8.5 No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum is present, which shall be five members or one tenth of the full membership, whichever is greater.
- 8.6 Meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been elected as Chair, or by another nominated member of the Steering Committee.
- 8.7 The Chair shall have a casting vote when the numbers voting for and against a resolution are equal.

9. Termination of Membership

- 9.1 Membership shall be terminated if the member resigns, ceases to offer service, dies or if the Group ceases to exist.
- 9.2 A member shall be removed from membership by a resolution of the Steering Committee if it is considered to be in the best interests of the Group. The member shall 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 shall commence 6 April and run to 5 April.
- 10.2 The Treasurer shall keep proper financial records and shall report regularly to the Steering Committee.
- 10.3 Accounts shall be subject to independent financial review at the end of the financial year.

11. Bank Accounts

- 11.1 All monies received shall be paid into a bank account in the name of the Group.
- 11.2 Cheques shall be signed by both the Treasurer and any one of the following: Chair, Secretary or two 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 Steering Committee decides to dissolve the Group, then it shall 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 Steering 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 shall be applied to purposes in keeping with the objects of the Group.
- 13.4 All books and documents of the Group shall be placed with such a person or organisation for safe keeping as the meeting shall decide.