North Pennines Smallholders

Constitution Adopted by Committee Meeting Held on 14 July 2015

1. The association will be called "North Pennines Smallholders."

2. The object of the association is: to provide its members, who have an interest in small scale agriculture, horticulture or forestry, with a forum for discussion, a source of mutual help and advice, training opportunities, networking and the chance to meet like-minded people.

3. Membership of the association shall be open to all those involved or interested in the above objectives. Any person wishing to become a member shall apply to the association with their name, address and contact details and shall become a member on payment of the current subscription and on the approval of the Committee.

4. The management of the association will be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and such number of ordinary members as are deemed necessary for the smooth running of the association up to a maximum of 8 in total.

   They shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting to hold office until the next Annual General Meeting. The maximum continuous period for a seat on the Committee will be 5 years with any office holder being restricted to a maximum continuous period of 3 years.

   Four shall constitute a quorum. The Chair or in their absence the Vice-Chair, will have an additional casting vote to be used in the case of stalemate. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt general members to the Committee and to dismiss committee members from the Committee by simple majority and subject to providing valid reasons for such changes.

5. The funds of the association, including all subscriptions and any other income shall be paid into an account operated by the Committee in the name of North Pennines Smallholders at such bank as the Committee shall decide from time to time. All payments from this account shall require cheques to be signed by two members of the Committee.

   Four members of the Committee shall be designated by the Committee from time to time as being authorised to sign cheques. The funds shall be applied solely to further the objectives of the association or otherwise as agreed by a majority of members in an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

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6. In the event of the winding up of the association the residual funds shall be donated to the RSPCA, or such other organisation or organisations, as the Committee shall deem most appropriate. A motion to wind up the association shall be put to an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called by the Committee.

7. The Annual General Meeting shall be at such time as decided by the Committee with at least 3 weeks advance notice to members but in any case before the end of March each year. Ten members shall form quorum. The financial year shall end on the 31st December.

8. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee at any time or at the written request of any five members. At least 14 days' notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given but an inadvertent failure as a result of which notice is not received by any member shall not invalidate the notice or subsequent meeting. Ten members shall form quorum.

9. An Annual Subscription shall become payable on 1 January each year or on joining the association. It shall be determined from time to time by the Committee, subject to approval at the next Annual General Meeting. The Committee may deem that a member has resigned whose subscription has not been paid by April. New members joining on or after 1 October shall be deemed to have paid their subscription to the end of the following calendar year.

10. The association will operate in England in accordance with English Law.

11. The constitution may be amended at an Annual General Meeting, or at any time at an Extraordinary General Meeting, upon the approval of the majority of the members present.