



Worthing Larks Constitution

A NAME

The side's name is **WORTHING LARKS** (*Changed from Sompting Larks on 23rd March 2021 by the full agreement of the interim committee and support from the side*)

B THE PURPOSES OF THE SIDE ARE :-

As an inclusive, mixed Morris dancing side to foster and enjoy the living tradition of Morris dancing

C CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the purposes, the Committee has the power to: -

- raise funds, receive grants and donations
- co-operate with and support other Morris sides and organisations with similar purposes
- do anything else within the law which is necessary to achieve the purposes

D MEMBERSHIP

The Committee may admit to membership anybody aged 11 and over, regardless of race, nationality, sexuality, gender identity, disability, culture or religion who supports the purposes of the side. People who wish to become a member should apply to the Committee. Membership lasts for 1 year and may be renewed. The Committee will keep an up to date membership list following Worthing Larks' Privacy Policy.

The Committee may expel someone from membership, provided it is in the best interest of the side to do so, and they are given the right to be heard by the Committee before the decision is made. They can be accompanied by a friend.

E ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda.
 - There must be at least 51% of paid-up members present at the AGM to enable a vote/motion to be carried
 - The Committee shall present the annual report and accounts in writing 14 days before the date of the AGM.
- Any member aged 18 or over may put themselves forward for election as a Committee member at the AGM.

- Every member has one vote.
- Members shall elect 5 members to the Committee. They will retire at the next AGM and may stand for re-election.

F **COMMITTEE**

- The Committee shall hold at least 3 meetings each year. They will elect a Squire, Foreman and Bag/Treasurer at their first meeting.
- At least 3 Committee members must be at a committee meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- The Committee must keep accounts which may be viewed by any member on request.
- The Committee may make reasonable additional rules for the proper conduct and management of the group. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

G **MONEY**

- Funds must be held in the side's bank account. There must be a minimum of 3 named people (signatories) who have access to the bank account. These will be the ex-officio members, Bag/Treasurer, Foreman and Squire. The main, named account holder will be the Bag/Treasurer.
- Cheques over £50 need only 1 signature.
- Funds cannot be used to pay Committee members except to refund legitimate expenses.
- Funds must only be used for the purposes of the side.
- There will be an annual summary of the financial situation of the side.
- Any decisions about how to use surplus funds will be discussed with the side at the AGM and a decision based on this discussion, made by the Committee members.

H **SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

Special General Meetings may be called by the Committee for the following reasons. All members must be given 14 days notice and told what change is proposed.

- **Changing the Constitution** - The constitution may be changed by a two thirds majority of members present and voting at a Special General Meeting.
- **Emergency Special General Meetings** – to allow the members to decide on important issues.
- **Winding up** – the group may be wound up by a two thirds majority of members present and voting at a Special General Meeting. Any money remaining after payment of debts must be given to a local charity to be agreed by a majority of members.

J **SETTING UP THE GROUP**

This constitution was adopted on 15 July 2020 by the people whose signatures appear below. They will act as a steering committee until the first AGM which will be held one year from the date of this document.

Claire Dadson
Lydia Pope
Eliza Russell
Stella Turner
Barry Williams