



Registered Charity number 511764.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1. NAME and DEFINITION**

The organisation is called West Lancashire Footpath Group, hereafter referred to as “the Group”.

### **2. AIMS and OBJECTIVES**

- a) The objectives of the Group are to encourage the use of public footpaths and to assist in the preservation, maintenance and defence of the rights of the public to use and enjoy on foot the public highways, (e.g. footpaths, bridle paths, by-ways and other ways, wastelands and roadside strips).
- b) The Group aims to prevent the abuse of such rights.
- c) The Group aims to co-operate with other associations, as appropriate, to promote the improvement of the local environment.
- d) The Group will endeavour to aid in the erection and maintenance of direction signs, stiles and footbridges etc. in accordance with the permission of the Highway Authority.
- e) The Group will endeavour to take steps to secure the addition of footpaths to the definitive map and statement of public rights of way.
- f) The Group will endeavour to bring the attention of the Highway Authority to problems or defects in the state of footpaths in the area.
- g) The Group will engage in such other activities as are in accordance with the foregoing aims.

### **3. TERRITORY**

The aims of the Group will cover the parishes served by the West Lancashire District Council based on Ormskirk.

### **4. MEMBERSHIP and SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Membership of the Group shall be open to anyone interested in and willing to assist in furthering the above aims and objectives. Subscriptions shall be as adopted by the membership at the Annual General Meeting on the recommendation of the Hon. Treasurer.

### **5. MANAGEMENT**

Subject to the directions of any Annual or Special General Meeting as to the exercise of its powers, the management and control of the Group shall be vested in a Committee. This shall consist of the Honorary Officers and as many of the ordinary members of the Group as the Annual General Meeting shall from time to time decide. The Committee shall have power to fill vacancies and to co-opt members as necessary. All members of the Committee shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election. A quorum for Committee meetings shall be 4.

## **6. OFFICERS**

The Honorary Officers of the Group shall be a Chairman, a Treasurer, a Secretary and such other Officers as the Group in a General Meeting may determine, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting. They shall retire at the A.G.M. following their election but shall be eligible for re-election.

## **7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Group shall hold its A.G.M. within two months of the end of the financial year, according to the availability of suitable premises. A quorum for the meeting shall be 12 members. At least 14 days notice shall be given in writing to each member of the Group all of whom shall be entitled to attend, in order to:

- a) Receive and consider the Annual Report of the Committee and the audited Statement of Accounts for the previous financial year.
- b) Appoint the Honorary Officers.
- c) Elect the Committee as described in paragraph 5 above.
- d) Appoint an auditor or auditors.
- e) Discuss and consider motions, notice of which shall have been given in writing to the Secretary.
- f) Vote on any proposals to amend this constitution.

## **8. SPECIAL MEETINGS**

The Chairman or Secretary may at any time, or shall within 21 days of receiving a request signed by not less than one twentieth of the members of the Group, with a minimum of 10 members, and giving reasons for the request, call a Special General Meeting. At least 14 days notice of this meeting shall be given in writing to each member, setting out the matters to be discussed and the terms of any motion which it is intended to move. A quorum for a Special General Meeting shall be 12 members.

## **9. FINANCES**

The Hon. Treasurer shall keep proper financial accounts and shall keep the Committee informed of the financial situation. Forms for the withdrawal of monies either by cheque or in cash shall be signed by two of the following officers: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary or assistant Secretary.

## **10. ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION**

This Constitution may be amended at any General Meeting in accordance with the approval of a two thirds majority of members present and voting, subject to the proviso that no amendment shall be made to this Constitution that will cause the Group to cease to be a charity in law.

## **11. DISSOLUTION**

Dissolution of the Group may occur only if it is confirmed by a majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting of the Group called specifically for the purpose. If in the event of dissolution there remains after the satisfaction of its debts and liabilities any property whatever, it shall be transferred to the Ramblers Association.

Adopted at A.G.M. 27<sup>th</sup> October 2001.

