

DORMOUSE GROUP CONSTITUTION DRAFT

1. The Group shall be called the Dormouse Group (hereinafter referred to as the Group).
2. The area served by the Group is XXX but the Group shall be free to enrol members from other areas and undertake projects and activities in other areas.
3. The aims of the group are:-
 - To increase the number of NDMP sites in the county
 - To find out more about the distribution of dormice across the county and set up NDMP sites that sufficiently monitor this.
 - To promote the Groups' activities
 - To inform landowners about grants for the regeneration of coppice woodlands and other relevant grants.
 - To encourage the exchange of information among members.
 - To encourage and promote the highest environmental and ethical standards within the group.
 - To seek opportunities for education and training for members of the Group.
4. To fulfil the above aims the Group will:-
 - Support its members
 - Undertake activities approved by the Committee in the furtherance of the aims or for the benefit of the Group.
 - Raise money through membership subscriptions and by any other means approved by the Committee for carrying out the aims or for other benefit of the Group.
 - By decision of the Committee, take up affiliation to or membership of any organisation for the benefit of the Group and/or its members and/or in the furtherance of the aims of the Group.
5. The Group shall hold Members' Meetings at least three times a year. The date, venue and Agenda for each Members' Meeting shall be notified to all members and all members shall be entitled to attend. One of the Members' Meetings, at approximately the same time each year, shall be designated the Groups' Annual General Meeting.
6. At each Annual General Meeting, the members present shall elect a Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and a maximum of seven further members, these persons shall act as a Management Committee until the next Annual General Meeting.

The Management Committee shall be responsible for the day to day running of the Group and shall explain their actions if called upon to do so at Members' Meetings.

All ten Committee members shall resign at each Annual General Meeting and may offer themselves for immediate re-election for a further year.

There shall be no limit to the number of times Committee members may offer themselves for re-election but the Committee shall endeavour to ensure a regular intake of new members.
7. The Management Committee shall hold meetings at least three times a year to conduct the administration of the Group. Minutes of Committee meetings shall be kept and circulated to Committee members. The quorum for meetings of the Management Committee shall be five.

8. The Committee may, at its sole discretion and without giving reasons, refuse any application for membership of the Group.

The Committee may refuse to renew any membership if in the opinion of the Committee a member has brought, or is likely to bring the Group into disrepute or has infringed the constitution.

9. Financial accounts of Group funds shall be kept by the Treasurer, shall be submitted annually to an independent inspection, and shall be submitted for members' approval at the Annual General Meeting.

The Group's membership year shall run from 1st January.

The Group's financial year shall run from 1st July.

The Group's current Treasurer shall be nominated as the sole cheque signatory.

10. Payment of membership subscriptions shall be due on 1st January annually. Any member who has not paid their membership subscription by 1st March following the due date shall cease to be a member forthwith.

The level of membership subscription for the next membership year shall be set annually by a majority of members voting at the Annual General Meeting.

11. During the currency of their membership, members are entitled to use the Group name and logo. Use of the Group name or logo indicates acceptance of, and adherence to, the aims of the Group as listed in No.3 of the Constitution.

12. The Group may be disbanded by consent of a two thirds majority of members attending an Extraordinary General Meeting convened by the Chairman for the purpose.

If the Group is disbanded all liabilities shall be met and any unspent grants repaid. Thereafter all remaining assets shall be donated to the Wildlife Trust with the expressed intention to use any such money to further dormouse conservation. No member shall have any further claim on the assets of the Group.

At the time of the distribution of assets, a statement showing how the distribution is calculated shall be provided to all members.

13. This constitution may only be altered by consent of two thirds of members attending an Annual General Meeting of the Group.