

Trailway Network Constitution & Rules

1 The organisation shall be called The Trailway Network.

2 The Trailway Network shall be a not-for-profit charitable voluntary body.

3 Its aim shall be to provide a safe accessible route for walkers, horse-riders and cyclists to the benefit of both local inhabitants and tourists to Dorset.

4 Specifically to establish a route along the course of the old Somerset & Dorset Railway line for the use of walkers, horse-riders and cyclists, initially from Stalbridge to Poole and eventually from Templecombe to Christchurch. (This route is not to be available to motorized vehicles other than Trailway maintenance vehicles and strategic barriers will be set up.)

5 By means of:

- (a) Re-establishing bridges over the Stour where they have been removed or damaged
- (b) Establishing Rights of Way where there are gaps in the route
- (c) Acquiring land where necessary to complete the route
- (d) Co-operating and liaising with all organisations which have influence on our objectives, including:
 - (i) Town and Parish Councils
 - (ii) Dorset County Council Countryside Rangers
 - (iii) County and District Councillors
 - (iv) Sustrans
 - (v) The Ramblers Association
 - (vi) The British Horse Society
 - (vii) Dorset Cycling Network

6 To these ends the Trailway Network will seek to raise funds

- (i) to facilitate the continuance of its work
- (ii) to publicise its work
- (iii) and to contribute to the acquisition of land, bridges etc

7 Membership shall be open to all on payment of the current subscription, subject to the approval of the Executive Committee. (The committee). The committee shall have the power to refuse, suspend, or terminate membership in the interests of the Network, such refusal, suspension or termination to be decided by a unanimous vote. The committee shall have the power to offer temporary or permanent honorary membership to persons whose membership is likely to benefit the Network, such offer to be decided by a unanimous vote. Each new member, whether honorary or subscribing, shall be given a copy of this Constitution.

8 The annual subscription shall be determined at the preceding Annual General Meeting by at least two thirds of those present. It shall provide membership for one calendar year ie November to October inclusive.

9 The Trailway Network shall be managed by the Executive Committee consisting of eight members elected annually at the AGM.

10 The Executive Committee shall, on election, choose a chairman and vice-chairman. Two committee members shall be the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer. The Hon Sec shall minute each formal meeting and deal with correspondence on behalf of the Network. The Hon Treasurer shall set up a bank account in the Network's name and be responsible for meeting the club's legitimate expenses and outgoings. There shall be three cheque signatories, one of whom shall be the Hon Treasurer, any two to sign. A quorum for the committee shall be the chairman or vice chairman and three committee members. The committee shall finalise decisions by a simple majority vote. In the event of an even vote the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. The committee may co-opt members and or set up sub-committees. The chairman and Hon Sec shall be ex-officio members of any subcommittee. A vacancy occurring on the committee shall be filled by election at the next formal general meeting. The committee chairman or vice-chairman shall chair all formal general meetings. The committee shall meet whenever necessary but in any event at least four times a year. A committee meeting shall not be valid unless all members have been given at least 48 hours notice. No member may hold more than one office. Tenure runs from AGM to AGM and all members are re-electable, although no member may hold the same office for more than four successive years.

11 The Annual General Meeting (the AGM) shall be held in October each year and each member shall be given at least 14 days' notice in writing whether electronically or on paper. At the AGM the chairman and Hon Sec shall present their reports for the year and the Hon Treasurer shall present the examined accounts for the year. The accounts shall be examined by two honorary examiner members approved by the committee. Proposals for consideration at the AGM shall be submitted to the Hon Sec in writing 21 days beforehand signed by a proposer and seconder.

12 The Constitution may only be amended by such a proposal to the AGM and then only by a two thirds majority of those present and voting.

13 General Meetings may be called by the committee who shall give members at least seven days' notice.

14 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by any five or more members submitting a request in writing to the Hon Sec, whereupon the committee shall convene such a meeting to be held within 21 days of receiving the request giving each member seven days' notice. Any such meeting shall deal only with the matter(s) raised in the request and each member shall be apprised of those matters at the time of receiving notice. A quorum for a General or Extraordinary General Meeting including the AGM shall be five ordinary members and three committee members including the chairman and the Hon Sec.

15 Voting

Voting at the AGM, at a General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be by a simple majority on a show of hands. In the event of an even vote the chairman may use his second or casting vote.

16 Interpretation of the rules Any dispute over the interpretation of these rules shall be resolved by the committee whose decision shall be final.

17 Dissolution of the Trailway Network In the event that the Network is dissolved or otherwise ceases to be, all monies remaining in the Network's account shall be given to any organisation closely paralleling the Network's aims, such gift to be decided by the committee. Should the Network be dissolved or otherwise cease to be with liabilities exceeding assets each current member shall be liable to the extent of one year's current subscription.