



CONSTITUTION OF THE ALLINGTON HILLBILLY VOLUNTEERS

(formerly known as The Allington Hill and Cooper's Wood & Field Community Group, Allington Hill Volunteers, Allington Hillbillies)

1. Name

The name of the group shall be the **Allington Hillbilly Volunteers** (also known as the Allington Hill & Cooper's Wood & Field Community Group, Allington Hill Volunteers, Allington Hillbillies).

2. Aim

To improve the open access green space generally known as Allington Hill and Cooper's Wood and Field.

3. Objectives

The group will fulfil the aim by:

- Promoting the health and well-being of the community and working together regardless of age, ethnic origin, ability, sex, belief or political affiliation recognising the value of our many differences.
- Involving the community in improving the area.
- Carrying out and promoting both environmental improvement and practical conservation, to educate, encourage and support the local community in environmental practice by working with statutory and non-statutory agencies.
- Working in conjunction with and under the guidance of the Woodland Trust (for Allington Hill) and Bridport Town Council (which holds a lease from the Woodland Trust for the area known as Cooper's Wood and Field).
- Promoting sport, community recreation and play facilities.

- Raising funds and receiving contributions where appropriate to finance the work.
- Publicising and promoting the work.
- Opening a bank account.
- Making rules and standing orders for categories of members and their rights.
- Taking out insurance, if required.
- Organising meetings, training courses and events.
- Working with similar groups and exchanging information and advice with them.
- Taking any action that is lawful which would help it to fulfil its aims.

4. Membership

- (a) Membership of the Allington Hillbilly Volunteers shall be open to anyone who is interested in helping the group to achieve its aim and willing to abide by the rules of the group.
- (b) Every member shall have one vote at general meetings.
- (c) The Management Committee shall have the power to refuse membership to an applicant, where it is considered such membership would be detrimental to the aims, purposes or activities of the group.
- (d) Registration and termination of membership.
 - Any member of the association may resign his/her membership and any representative of a member organisation or section may resign such position, by giving to the secretary of the association written notice to that effect.
 - The Management Committee may, by resolution passed at a meeting thereof, terminate or suspend the membership of any member, if in its opinion his/her conduct is prejudicial to the interests and objects of the association, PROVIDED THAT the individual member or representative of the member organisation (as the case may be) shall have the right to be heard by the General Committee before the final decision is made. There shall be a right of appeal to an independent arbitrator appointed by mutual agreement.
- (d) Financial Benefit to members:
 No member may directly or indirectly benefit financially from activities on Allington Hill or Cooper's Wood and Field, without written permission from the Committee, and, in the case of Allington Hill, from the Woodland Trust, or in the case of Cooper's Wood and Field, from Bridport Town Council (enquiries@bridport-tc.gov.uk).

5. Management

- (a) The Allington Hillbilly Volunteers shall be administered by a Management Committee of not less than three (3) people and not more than fifteen (15) members elected at the group's Annual General Meeting, Committee Members must be at least 18 years old.
- (b) The officers of the Management Committee shall be:
The Chairperson
The Treasurer
The Secretary/Co-ordinator
and such other officers the group shall deem necessary at the meeting.
- (c) The Management Committee shall meet at least three (3) times a year.
- (d) At least three (3) Management Committee members must be present for the Management Committee meeting to take place.
- (e) Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands on a majority basis. If there is a tied vote, then the chairperson shall have a second vote.
- (f) Power to set up sub-groups and working parties as deemed necessary who shall be accountable to the committee.
- (g) The Management Committee shall be accountable to the members at all times.
- (h) All meetings must be minuted and available to any interested party.
- (i) All Management Committee members shall be given at least seven (7) days' notice of a meeting unless it is deemed an emergency meeting.

6. Finance

- (a) Any money obtained by the group shall be used only for the group.
- (b) Any bank accounts opened for the group shall be in the name of the group.
- (c) Any cheque issued shall be signed by at least two of any three nominated signatures.
- (d) The Management Committee will ensure that the group stays within the budget.

7. General Public Meetings

- (a) The committee shall call at least one general public meeting (other than the AGM) each year, the purpose of this meeting is for the group

to account for its actions and consider the regeneration and development of Allington Hill and Coopers Wood according to the group's objectives.

- (b) The Chair or the Co-ordinator of the group shall normally chair these meetings.
- (c) At least fourteen (14) days' notice of such a meeting must be given and advertised in at least five (5) public places.
- (d) All meetings, including AGMs, must be minuted and available to any interested party.
- (e) The quorum for a General Meeting is six (6).

8. Annual General Meeting

- (a) The Allington Hillbilly Volunteers shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) once a year.
- (b) Where possible members shall be notified personally, otherwise notice will be deemed served by advertising the meeting in at least five (5) public places giving at least fourteen (14) days' notice of the AGM.
- (c) The business of the AGM shall include:
 - Receiving a report from the Chairperson of the group's activities over the year.
 - Receiving a report and presentation of the last financial year's accounts from the Treasurer on the finances of the group.
 - Electing a new Management Committee and considering any other matter as may be appropriate at such a meeting.
- (d) The quorum for an Annual General Meeting shall be at least eight (8) persons of which no more than four (4) shall be committee members.

9. Extraordinary General Meeting

- (a) The Management Committee can call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time.
- (b) If five (5) members of the group inform the Secretary in writing that they wish an Extraordinary General Meeting to be held, then the Management Committee must call such a meeting.
- (c) Where possible members shall be notified personally, otherwise notice will be deemed served by advertising the meetings in at least five (5) public places giving at least seven (7) days' notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting.

- (d) The quorum for Extraordinary General Meeting shall be at least eight (8) persons of which no more than four (4) shall be committee members.

10. Alteration of the Constitution

- (a) Proposals for amendments to this constitution, or dissolution (see Clause 11) must be delivered to the Secretary in writing. A meeting of the Management Committee must then be held to discuss the changes.
- (b) Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by at least two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting.


11. Dissolution

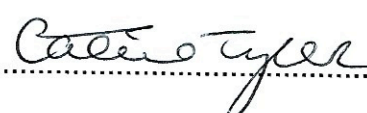
The group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two thirds of those members present and voting at any general meeting. Any assets shall be returned to their providers, if they require it, or shall be passed to another group with similar aims.


12. Adoption of the Constitution


This revised constitution was adopted by the members present at the Annual General Meeting on 18 June 2024


Signed:



..... (Chair)


..... (Secretary/Coordinator)


..... (Treasurer)


..... (Member)


..... (Member)


..... (Member)