

NORTH HAMBLETON WINDFARM ACTION GROUP (NHWAG) CONSTITUTION (As adopted 14th April 2011)

1.Name

The organisation shall be called the North Hambleton Windfarm Action Group (NHWAG); also herein referred to as "the Group".

2.Definitions

North Hambleton, "the Area" is an area containing the "Villages" of Appleton Wiske, Welbury, Deighton, Hornby, Great Smeaton, Little Smeaton, Picton, Worsall, East Rounton, West Rounton, and Crathorne.

The "Area" is loosely bounded by a line drawn from High Entercommon to Lovesome Hill to East Harlsey to Ingleby Arncliffe to Crathorne to Low Worsall to High Entercommon.

A "Windfarm" is an installation or proposed installation of one or more wind turbines of a height in excess of 50 metres and total installed capacity in excess of 100kW.

3. Aims

The aims of the Group are:

- To protect the peace, harmony, and personal utility of the Villages within the Area.
- To inform residents of the Area of the pros and cons of wind energy.
- To communicate details to the Villages within the Area of any proposal for any Windfarm and/or any related planning application that may affect the Area.
- To support the responsible development of sustainable and low carbon energy generation.

4.Objectives.

The objectives of the Group are:

- to oppose all aspects of the process by which any planning application may be submitted for the construction of a windfarm at Ingram Grange, Appleton Wiske or any other location within the Area;
- to oppose any application itself should it be submitted;
- to oppose the appellant should any application be declined by the relevant planning authority and an appeal be lodged;
- to ensure that all aspects and conditions of any approval are strictly adhered to, and that the daily life and needs of local inhabitants are given due and proper regard by the developer should any application be approved either by the relevant planning authority or as the result of an appeal.

5. Membership

Membership is free and is open to anyone interested in promoting the objectives of the Group. Only members aged 18 or over will be entitled to vote at any meeting or to stand for election.

6. Activities

In order to achieve its objectives the Group may through its Committee:

- Raise Funds and open Bank Accounts
- Appoint and constitute sub groups
- Carry out research and employ staff, consultants, legal and other experts
- Organise events
- Compile and distribute newsletters and press releases and to communicate with the media
- Lobby M.P.'s, Councillors and other elected representatives, and council and other officials.
- Work with other appropriate organisations and exchange information and advice with them
- Do anything to fulfil its aims and objectives in a lawful manner.

7. Officers and Committee

The business of NHWAG shall be conducted in accordance with this constitution by a Committee elected from the membership at an Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer (the "Officers").

The Officers shall have the power as they deem fit to co-opt up to two additional members to the Committee.

The election or removal of Officers may only be carried out at an annual or special general meeting. All Officers shall be eligible for re-election at any Annual or Special General Meeting.

The Committee may fill any vacancy arising amongst the Officers from either co-opted members or from the general membership.

The Group will indemnify the Officers and co-opted Members of the Committee against their lawful actions authorised by the Group.

8. Meetings

Each year NHWAG shall hold at least 4 General Meetings (including the AGM). All meetings shall be open to the general membership.

The Chairman will chair General Meetings or in his/her absence the Vice Chairman or a member elected for that occasion.

NHWAG policy and direction to achieve its objectives will be debated and formulated at General Meetings.

The Secretary will prepare and distribute an agenda and take keep and distribute minutes for each General Meeting.

All decisions will be taken by a simple majority of eligible members present and voting. The decision of General Meetings shall be binding on the Committee.

9. Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM shall be held once in each Calendar year, and not more than 15 months shall pass between the date of one AGM and the next. The AGM shall:

- Receive an annual report from the Committee
- Present independently audited accounts to the previous 31st March
- Appoint or re-appoint an independent auditor
- Elect or re-elect Officers and Committee members
- Consider any resolutions put forward by members
- Vote on any amendments to the constitution.

Nominations for election may be made at the meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies election shall be by a show of hands of eligible members present.

A Special General meeting may be called by the Committee by giving 21 days notice, or by 10 members in writing to the Committee stating the purpose of the meeting. On receipt of such a request the Committee shall hold such Special General Meeting within 28 days.

10. Quorum

The quorum for all General and Special Meetings shall be 10 members.

11. Notices

As much notice as is reasonable and practicable shall be given for all general meetings and 21 days notice shall be given for all Annual or Special General Meetings.

The meeting notice containing the agenda and details of any special resolutions to be submitted will be distributed by e-mail to members and by posting one copy in each Village.

12. Funds

All monies received by or on behalf of NHWAG shall be applied to further the aims and objectives of the Group and for no other purpose except on dissolution.

NHWAG's funds, including all donations, subscriptions, and other contributions, shall be paid into a Group bank account to be operated by the Committee. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by two of four appointed/nominated committee members. One of the signatories should normally be the Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall maintain proper books of account and supervise the financial affairs of the Group. The accounts shall be available for inspection by any member of NHWAG within 28 days of the receipt of a written request by the Committee.

The Treasurer will endeavour to prepare an Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Funds for presentation and discussion at each General Meeting.

NHWAG may at the discretion of the Committee pay reasonable out of pocket expenses to members engaged on approved activities relating to the aims and objectives of the Group.

13. Constitution

Any proposal to alter this constitution may be made by the Committee or by the written submission of at least 10 members to the Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the General Meeting in which it is to be discussed.

Any such proposal shall require approval of two thirds of eligible members present and voting at the meeting.

14. Dissolution

A Special General meeting may be called by the Committee or by 10 members in writing to the Committee requesting dissolution of the Group. On receipt of such a request the Committee shall hold such Special General Meeting within 28 days. The sole item on the agenda shall be the dissolution proposal. The Treasurer will prepare a dissolution statement of funds for presentation to the meeting.

NHWAG will be dissolved if the dissolution proposal is approved by two thirds of eligible members present and voting at the Special General Meeting convened for the purpose.

If the dissolution proposal is carried a second Special General Meeting will take place immediately afterwards to determine the distribution of dissolution funds in accordance with the following:

- (1) 20% of dissolution funds to Area organisations as the meeting shall deem fit.
- (2) 80% of dissolution funds to individual donors where it is possible to identify them from Group records. If such balance of dissolution funds is insufficient to return all individual donations the amount of such return of donation shall be calculated according to the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Individual Donation}}{\text{Total Individual Donations}} \times \text{Balance of Dissolution Funds}$$

- (3) Any remaining amount to Area organisations in the same proportion as decided in point (1) above.

This constitution was approved at the Annual General Meeting held at Appleton Wiske Village Hall on 14th April 2011.

Chairman.....

Date.....

Secretary.....

Date.....

Treasurer.....

Date.....

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