



## DARTMOOR ACCESS GROUP CONSTITUTION

**1. Name:** Dartmoor Access Group

**2. The aims of the group are:**

The Dartmoor Access Group represents the diverse needs of recreational Dartmoor user groups. Our representation is drawn from wild campers, hikers, climbers, kayakers, outdoor educationalists, dog walkers, and hobbyists with an interest in using the Dartmoor National Park.

Through social media and club networks, we have access to many thousands of Dartmoor users, and serve as a conduit to share common aims and concerns as they arise in connection with recreational access within Dartmoor National Park.

- a. To uphold, support and defend the rights and freedoms of recreational users of the Dartmoor National Park.
- b. To oppose any unnecessarily authoritarian restrictions imposed on the rights and freedoms of open air recreation within the Dartmoor National Park.
- c. To hold the local authorities, and more specifically the Dartmoor National Park Authority, to account where countryside access is threatened.
- d. To campaign through various means to achieve these aims.

Abuse of Dartmoor's landscape is of great concern to us. In achieving our aims we will support the primary aims of a National Park:

(i) "of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the (Dartmoor National Park) area".

*and*

(ii) "of promoting opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the (Dartmoor National Park) area by the public".

**3. Powers** - In order to achieve its aims the Group may:

- a. Do anything that is lawful which will help it to fulfil its aims.
- b. Work with other groups and exchange information.
- c. Organise events if necessary to promote its aims.
- d. Seek to achieve charitable status.
- e. Seek to open a bank account and raise funds as necessary in connection with (d) when required.

**4 Membership**

(a) Membership of the Group shall be open to any person over 18 who is interested in helping the Group to achieve its aims, willing to abide by the rules of the Group and willing to pay any subscription agreed by the Management Committee at each AGM.

(b) Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief.

(c) Every individual member shall have one vote at General Meetings.

(d) The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Management Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Management Committee before a final decision is made.

**5 Management**

(a) The Group shall be administered by a Management Committee of the Officers and not more than six other members elected at the Group's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

(b) The Officers of the Management Committee shall be: the Chairperson, the Secretary and Treasurer. Treasurer appointment dependant on 3 (d).

(c) The Management Committee shall meet at least three times a year.

(d) The Chairperson shall Chair all meetings of the Group.

(e) The quorum for Management Committee meetings shall be two members of the committee and the Chairperson who may pre-delegate to another member.

(f) Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands (verbally indicated through remote meetings). If there is a tied vote then the Chairperson shall have a second vote.

(g) The Management Committee may, by a two-thirds majority vote and for a good and proper reason, remove any Committee member, provided that person has the right to be heard before a final decision is made.

(h) The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.

## **6 Duties of the Officers**

### **(a) The duties of the Chairperson are to:**

- (i) Chair meetings of the Committee and the Group.
- (ii) Represent the Group at functions/meetings that the Group has been invited.
- (iii) Act as spokesperson for the Group or delegate as necessary.

### **(b) The duties of the Secretary are to:**

- (i) Take and keep minutes of meetings
- (ii) Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Group in consultation with the Chairperson.
- (iii) Maintain the membership list.
- (iv) Deal with correspondence, or delegate as necessary.

### **(c) The duties of the Treasurer (when appointed) are to:**

- (i) Supervise the financial affairs of the Group.
- (ii) Keep proper accounts that show all monies collected and paid out by the Group.

## **7 Finance**

- (i) Any money obtained by the Group shall be used only for the Group.
- (ii) Any bank accounts opened for the Group shall be in the name of the Group.
- (iv) Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official.

## **8 Annual General Meeting**

- (a) The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (A.G.M.) in the month of October.
- (b) All members of the group shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the A.G.M. and shall be entitled to attend in person and vote. The quorum for an AGM shall be 4 members
- (c) The business of the A.G.M. shall include:
  - (ii) Receiving a report from the Chairperson.
  - (ii) Receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Group.
  - (iii) Electing a new Management Committee.
  - (iv) Considering any other matter as may be decided.

## **9 Special General Meeting**

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members at least five days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote.

## **10 Alterations to the Constitution**

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. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.

This constitution was adopted at a general meeting of the Group on

Agreed on 19th October 2021

Shamus McCaffery, Adrian Wade, John Bainbridge, Abi Hitchcock, Pete Callaghan, Brian Taylor, Ian Lane, Mark Horton

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Signed by:

Chairperson: Secretary Treasurer (when appointed) & Other Committee members: