



CONSTITUTION FOR COUNTRY LINK

NAME

COUNTRY LINK

Individual Groups shall take the name of their County or Area e.g. Somerset Country Link.

AIM

Country Link is an organisation formed to enable people interested in the countryside to meet others of similar interests, in informal social gatherings. A nation-wide network of groups, it is aimed at those living, working and interested in the countryside, whose responsibilities and anti-social working hours make it difficult for them to make social contact. The range of activities and interests of members will make the Groups more attractive to those over 26 years of age and with interests in the countryside.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to associated Country Link Groups as recognised by Country Link. Groups will consist of paid up members. Each Group to review its membership list annually.

NATIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

An agreed sum per paid up member (sum agreed at National AGM) will be paid by each associated Group to Country Link. Payment will be due on 1st January each year to cover the current year and to be forwarded to National funds by the date of the Spring Organiser's meeting each year. Groups that do not pay may not receive various benefits of the National Organisation (e.g. insurance) at the discretion of the National Committee. However, new groups may apply to their Regional Representative to have this figure waived for the first year (this to be at the discretion of the Regional Representative and the National Committee).

The subscription sum collected by each Group, over and above the National sum, will be left to the members to decide at their individual Group AGMs.

GROUPS

Groups will hold an AGM and elect Organiser(s), Secretary, Treasurer and others as the Group sees fit to appoint. Each Group is to send one representative (or more if invited by the Regional Committee) to form and attend Regional Committee meetings, these representatives need not necessarily be organisers.

REGIONS

The Regional meetings should be held quarterly and it is suggested that decisions are reached by consensus.

The Regional Representative is to be elected on a one vote per Group basis, other officers may be appointed as necessary. All posts to be confirmed annually.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The Regional Representative or his delegate should attend all National meetings and should visit each Group in the Region at least annually. The Regional Representative should be available to support and encourage the Group organisers, and should administer Regional funds as necessary.

NATIONAL

There will be at least four National meetings annually, being an AGM (Spring), Group Organisers Meeting (Autumn), and two National Committee meetings.

The National Committee will consist of the eight elected Regional Representatives plus four others elected at the AGM to hold office for one year and be eligible for re-election. At the AGM a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, treasurer and secretary shall be elected to act with Regional Representatives to form a National Committee. Should a Regional Representative be elected for office, his/her deputy for that Region will replace him/her.

Nominations for election to the National Committee should be forwarded to the Chairman at least by the date of the National Committee meeting immediately prior to the AGM. The nominee must be a paid-up member of Country Link and be proposed and seconded by paid-up members of Country Link. The names of all the candidates to be advised to Country Link members on the agenda for the National AGM. If no nominations have been received for particular posts by that date, nominations will be accepted from the floor at the AGM.

Elections will be on the basis, one vote to each member attending the AGM and proxy votes will be accepted by post via the National Co-ordinator.

An emergency meeting of the National Committee may be called if 60% of the Committee feels it to be necessary and 60% must attend.

The National Committee may co-opt members to its committee as felt necessary but the co-opted members will not vote.

The National Committee may appoint, dismiss and substitute individuals, officers and sub-committees, deciding their duties in writing as necessary, except those elected at National AGM or at Regional level.

60% of the paid-up membership are needed to change the constitution at the AGM or any Extraordinary General meeting. Any amendment must have been circulated to all Groups with the agenda of the meeting giving one month's notice.

Groups are responsible to the Regional Committee, and finally the National Committee whose decisions are final.

FINANCE

The National Treasurer has discretion to spend up to an agreed amount per quarter, without consulting the National Committee, keeping the account within credit balance. Two signatories are required to operate the National Bank Accounts.

An interim financial report should be prepared for each National Committee meeting and Group Organiser's meeting. Likewise Regional fund interim financial reports for Regional Meetings.

A set of audited accounts should be presented for adoption at the National AGM. Accounts should be prepared at Region and Group level for their AGMs.

WINDING UP

Individual Group: Any funds after payment of outstanding expenses to go to Regional Funds, in event of no Regional fund to go to National, to be held for 7 years to be used when reforming a group in that area. At the end of this term funds may be transferred to General funds.

Region: Any funds to go to National to be used when reforming the Region at a later date. These funds to be held 7 years as above.

National: An AGM of the remaining membership should be called to decide if there is a body of similar nature of if funds are to be disbursed immediately. The AGM will require the agreement of 90% of the remaining membership to wind up the organisation.

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This constitution was agreed and accepted by paid-up members of Country Link at their AGM held on Saturday 17th March 1990 at Stoneleigh.

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This second unchanged edition re-typed and printed March 1994

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This Constitution was amended following the change of date for the AGM, and agreed by the members at the AGM in May 2017