

CUMBRIA ORGANIC GARDENERS AND FARMERS

CONSTITUTION

As amended at the AGM 17/11/2019

1. Name

The organisation shall be called 'Cumbria Organic Gardeners and Farmers', hereafter in this document called COGF.

2. Objectives

The Objectives of the organisation are:-

- to promote organic methods of gardening and farming in Cumbria;
- the improvement of practical gardening and farming through the application of organic methods and principles by all possible means;
- to encourage and assist its members to develop organic gardening and farming techniques and practices; and,
- * to support and cooperate with the Henry Doubleday Research Association (Garden Organic) and similar organisations where appropriate through affiliation and participation in national, regional and local events and promotions.

3. Membership

Membership shall be open to all who support the objectives of the organisation. Membership shall be available in the following categories:

- household membership - open to residents of the same household living at the same address upon payment of one annual subscription fee.
- honorary life membership – awarded to those members who, in the opinion of the organisation, have shown exceptional commitment to the achievement of its objectives. Honorary life members shall not pay an annual subscription fee.

Annual membership subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting and shall run from 1st January to 31st December. Subscriptions of those joining after October 1st shall run until December of the following year.

4. Meetings.

Persons entitled to vote at meetings (hereafter: persons entitled to vote) are those aged 18 or over who are normally resident in households which have household membership or which include an honorary life member. Persons entitled to vote must attend meetings in person in order to vote.

The Annual General Meeting shall be held each autumn to transact some or all of the following business;

- to receive an annual report on COGF's activities;
- to receive COGF's annual financial accounts;
- to consider any motions that appear on the agenda papers;
- to elect a management committee which shall consist of Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and at least two further members to serve COGF during the following year;
- to appoint an auditor for the following year.

The Management Committee shall serve for one year and shall stand down at the following AGM. Individuals can stand for re-election should they so wish.

Further members of the Management Committee may be co-opted by the Committee as required.

The Secretary shall give all members 42 days prior notification of the calling of the Annual General Meeting setting out the date, time and venue of the meeting. The notification shall also call for any motions for consideration by the AGM to be submitted to the Secretary no later than 28 days prior to the AGM.

All resolutions shall be decided by a show of hands. In all cases except those relating to changes to the Constitution or the dissolution of COGF a decision will be made by a simple majority of persons entitled to vote who are present and who have voted. The Chairperson shall have a casting vote.

A quorum at the A.G.M. shall be ten persons entitled to vote.

The Management Committee shall meet as often as is necessary to conduct the business of COGF as and when it arises throughout the year and shall receive reports from the Secretary and Treasurer.

The Management Committee shall fill any vacancy arising during the year in any of the posts which are elected at the AGM.

A quorum for a management committee meeting shall be three members (elected or co-opted).

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting of COGF to consider any issue which, in its opinion, is of sufficient urgency and/or importance as to warrant such action. The Management Committee shall also call a Special General Meeting of COGF to consider any issue submitted to the Secretary in writing by 15 persons entitled to vote. The Management Committee shall arrange for the meeting to be held within 60 days of the written request being received by the Secretary. The Secretary shall give all members 28 days prior notification of the Special General Meeting setting out the issue(s), date, time and venue of the meeting. The costs associated with the calling of a Special General Meeting shall be borne by COGF.

A Special General Meeting shall only consider those issues that appear on the papers calling the meeting.

5. Dissolution

A decision to dissolve COGF can only be taken at an Annual General Meeting, provided that all members have had 14 days prior notification that the issue is to be discussed, or at a Special General Meeting called specifically for that purpose. A decision for dissolution shall require a two-thirds majority of persons entitled to vote who are present and who have voted.

Immediately following a decision to dissolve, all COGF's assets shall be sold and all liabilities settled. Any monies remaining shall be donated to the Henry Doubleday Research Association (Garden Organic).

6. Amendments

Amendments to the constitution shall only be made at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting. All members will be given 14 days prior notification of the proposed amendments. Amendments to the constitution shall require a two-thirds majority of persons entitled to vote who are present and who have voted.

(The duties and responsibilities of the Officers, together with those of other post holders are attached to this constitution for information purposes only. They do not form part of the Constitution nor are they subject to the rules governing changes to the Constitution.)