

Nature New Mills Constitution

The group name is Nature New Mills (NNM) hereafter described as 'the group'.

It is an unincorporated community group.

AIM OF THE GROUP

- To support the community in helping nature recover, by protecting habitats and endangered species, and increasing the variety and abundance of wildlife

OBJECTIVES

- Increase interest and enthusiasm for nature throughout the whole community
- Cultivate a thriving network of local people and organisations, knowledge and research
- Generate a feeling of empowerment to motivate personal and community actions to achieve the aim of the group
- Facilitate the delivery of practical community and private projects to achieve the group's strategy

POWERS

- Raise funds through application to grant making bodies, and to invite and receive contributions and donations
- To pay for:
 - services needed from other groups and persons to enable the group to achieve its objectives.
 - appropriate venues to carry out activities.
 - approved out-of-pocket expenses to its members, volunteers and to others who incur such expense on the group's behalf
 - equipment in order to fulfil the objectives. Any purchases will remain the property of the group.
- Take out necessary insurances
- Work in partnership with other community groups, charities, statutory agencies and the local business community to achieve the objectives
- Become members of relevant local, regional or national organisations
- To do all other lawful things as will enable the group to achieve its aim.

MEMBERSHIP

- Is available to anyone who lives or works in New Mills or surrounding areas and has an interest in wildlife and nature
- People of any age can become members but those under 16 years of age will require parental permission to share their contact details

- Is dependent on agreement to this Constitution and any policies on working practices agreed by the Committee.
- Members can vote at Annual and General Meetings.
- The group will only collect and securely store personal data in order to inform members of group activities or to support funding applications.
- Membership of the group may be terminated for good and sufficient reason. Any person whose membership is so terminated should have the right to appeal against the decision, when they can be accompanied by a friend to a special committee meeting held for this purpose. The committee and the member can call upon other agencies to support this process.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Committee will be responsible for:

- developing the group's strategy
- prioritising projects and activities in line with their impacts and the group's resources
- looking after the group's financial and physical assets
- undertaking administrative tasks, including obtaining insurances
- supporting communication, networking and publicity
- ensuring accountability
- ensuring management functions are robust and resilient

It will consist of between four and six people and meet at least four times per year.

Chair, treasurer and secretary positions will be held by committee members who can agree to instigate other roles as necessary. The role of Chair cannot be held by the same person for more than three consecutive years.

Decisions will be made by consensus whenever possible. If consensus cannot be reached there will be a ballot with the Chair having an additional casting vote where there are equal numbers of votes cast.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings will take place at least four times a year, or more frequently if three members or more agree.

Details of planned meetings will be emailed to committee members at least a week in advance

Decisions cannot be made unless there are at least three people attending the meeting and will be accepted with a two thirds majority

Minutes of meetings will be published on-line or emailed directly to those requesting them

GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting will be held within 6 weeks of the end of the financial year.

Details of General and Special meetings will be provided at least two weeks before the event via social media, email and posters.

FINANCES

The group will hold a bank account, which will be operated in accordance with the Finance Policy to require safeguards of multiple signatories to authorise payments or formally agree money transfers before payments can be made out of the account.

The treasurer will be responsible for managing the account in line with the group's Finance Policy and will present a summary report at each Committee and Annual General Meeting.

Nature New Mills will not distribute income or property to its members during its lifetime.

ALTERATIONS TO CONSTITUTION

The committee will review this constitution annually.

The Constitution will be reviewed by the members at least once every two years.

Any alterations to this constitution will need to be ratified at an Annual General Meeting or at a specially called General meeting if the changes are not unanimously agreed by all committee members.

CLOSING DOWN THE GROUP

If the committee believes the group needs to be closed down the reasons for and plans on how to accomplish this will be shared with and voted upon by the membership at a Special General Meeting, with a majority required to endorse.

In these circumstances committee officers will ensure that any assets remaining after debts have been paid will be donated to an organisation or organisations of their choice, with similar aims. Likewise, any equipment held by the group will be offered to local community organisations.

Agreed by the Management Committee

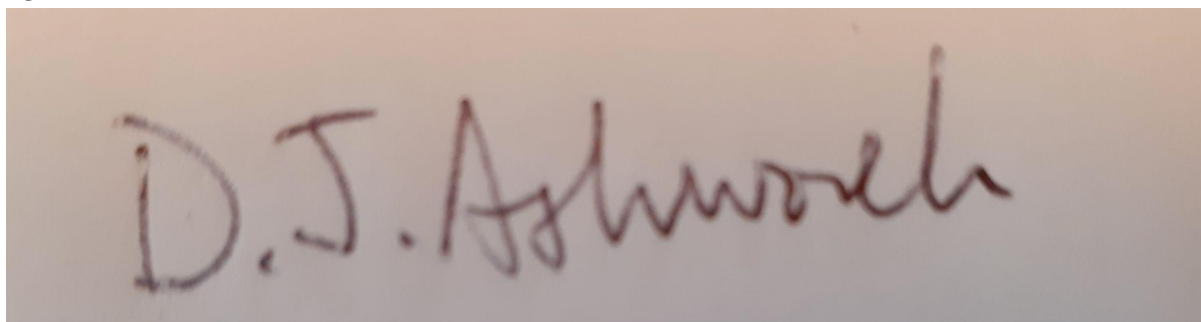
17th July 2023 at the Annual General Meeting

V3 amended by unanimous agreement (Committee WhatsApp group 24th Oct 2023)

Unchanged after AGM 1st May 2024

Review due: before AGM 2025

Signed:

A photograph of a handwritten signature in dark ink on a light-colored surface. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "D.J. Ashworth".

D.J. Ashworth