

Foreword

The Society of Sussex Wealdmen was founded in 1926 and incorporated the Horsham branch of The Commons and Footpaths Preservation Society. In autumn 2016, following consultation with the membership, the name “Sussex Sunday Walkers” was also adopted (Chairman’s Message No.4 dated 11 December 2016 referred) for the primary purpose of promoting the Society to potential new members. The name “Sussex Sunday Walkers” is additional to the pre-existing name, the “Society of Sussex Wealdmen”, which remains the legal entity name of the society / club and shall continue to be used for formal purposes.

AIMS

- 1) To assist in making known and keeping open for the benefit of the public the footpaths, bridleways and other public access in Sussex.
- 2) To encourage walking e.g. by organising walks under leadership and to promote fellowship among the members and the wider walking community.

The Society may co-operate with other bodies in furtherance of its aims.

RULES

- 1) The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President(s), Chairman, General, Events, Walks Programme and Communications Secretaries, Treasurer and Footpath Secretary/ies, all of which shall be honorary. All Officers, apart from the President and Vice President(s), shall be elected annually at the AGM. Existing retiring Officers shall be eligible for re-election.
- 2) The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Committee normally having a core membership of the Chairman, General, Events, Walks Programme and Communications Secretaries and Treasurer. The President and the Footpath Secretary/ies may, at their own discretion, also join the Committee.
- 3) In addition to the above members the Committee, may at its discretion, invite up to three further members to be co-opted onto the Committee.
- 4) The Committee shall normally aim to meet formally at least twice a year, with four members forming a quorum. The Committee may also conduct business on an *ad hoc* basis, not necessarily in formal meetings, e.g. by means of email for which records of decisions shall be kept.
- 5) The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held during the annual walking weekend (usually in April or May around the time of the May Day bank holiday). At least 28 days’ notice in writing shall be given to all members and the closing date for the inclusion of any items in the agenda (except rule changes; see Rule 14 below) shall be 14 days before the date of the AGM. The Agenda shall be issued to members at least 7 days before the scheduled date of the AGM. No other motions or proposals shall be voted on or otherwise determined at the meeting.
- 6) Notice of all motions for inclusion in the AGM agenda shall be accompanied by the names of the Proposer and Secunder, each of whom shall be paid-up members at the time of lodging the notice.

- 7) Members who are unable to attend the AGM may appoint a proxy who will be at the meeting to vote on their behalf, in which case they shall inform the General Secretary of the name of their proxy at least three days before the date of the AGM.
- 8) An independent Examiner of the Accounts, who shall not be a member of the Committee, shall be appointed by the AGM.
- 9) Membership shall be granted upon payment of an annual subscription, the amount of which shall be agreed by the AGM. The subscription so determined shall apply from and become due on the following 1st January.
- 10) Honorary membership may be granted by the AGM to members considered and recommended by the Committee to have made an outstanding contribution to the aims of the Society.
- 11) Members may bring friends on walks.
- 12) Dogs will be permitted on walks, with the prior agreement of the leader obtained at least 24 hours in advance of the walk. Dogs must be under strict control and owners must do as requested by the leader. This includes putting their dog on a lead when asked. Extendable leads are prohibited. Leaders, when offering to lead walks, may stipulate dogs are not allowed. The Committee may at its absolute discretion withdraw permission for a particular dog to join our walks.
- 13) The financial year of the Society shall end on the last day of December.
- 14) Amendments to the rules of the Society shall only be made at an AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) specially convened for the purpose. At least 28 days' notice in writing of the date of the AGM/EGM shall be given to all members. Details of the proposed changes to the rules shall be given with the notice of the AGM /EGM.
- 15) Where the Committee considers the actions of a member have brought or may bring the Society into disrepute or be contrary to its published Aims and Rules, it shall be empowered to suspend or cancel membership.
- 16) In the event of the Society ceasing to exist the funds and assets of the Society shall be disposed of to such charitable organisations as agreed by the Committee.
- 17) Reference in these rules to "notice in writing" or similar shall include transmission by electronic means where members are equipped to receive such communications.

(end)

The above document (two pages) was adopted at the Annual General Meeting held on 13th May 2022 and supersedes all previous editions.

*Gaynor Waterman
Chairman*