

CONSTITUTION OF THE THORNCOMBE VILLAGE TRUST

1. NAME

The name of the Trust shall be the Thorncombe Village Trust (hereinafter referred to as the Trust).

2. OBJECTS

A) The Trust is established for charitable purposes only.

B) In particular the Trust is established to:

i) Encourage and promote a greater interest in, and understanding of, the local environment and its history;

(ii) protect historic buildings in the Parish, and especially to conserve the character of the village of Thorncombe and of the other settlements in the Parish;

(iii) oppose unsuitable development in the Parish

(iv) safeguard and enhance the countryside in the Parish;

(v) support nature conservation in the Parish;

C) In furtherance of these objects the Trust may obtain, collect or receive money by way of contributions, donations, subscriptions, grants or other lawful methods, and may make donations to individuals or organisations.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in furthering the objects of the Trust. All members aged 16 years and over qualify to vote at the AGM and any Special General Meeting.

4. PRESIDENT

A President of the Trust may be elected by a majority vote at the AGM for the services he has rendered to the Trust. The President will have a non executive role but shall be entitled to attend Committee Meetings and vote at them. The President shall be exempt from paying a subscription.

5. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Trust shall be: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Programme Secretary and Membership Secretary. The election of the Officers is dealt with in paragraph 6 below. If an Officer ceases to hold office for any reason the committee may appoint a successor to act temporarily.

6. COMMITTEE

The affairs of the Trust shall be managed by a Committee of ten members, who shall be elected by the AGM to serve for a period of two years. The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Trust and of four other members. Committee members shall retire in rotation and be eligible for re-election. Their nominations shall be in writing, shall be made by a member of the Trust with the concurrence of the nominee and be received by the secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM. Election shall normally be by show of hands, unless a ballot is deemed appropriate by the Chairman. The Committee shall normally meet once a month. At the first Committee meeting held after the AGM the Committee shall elect the Officers of the Trust, the arrangements for the election being at the discretion of the Chairman of the meeting. The Committee may also be summoned by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, or by 3 members of the Committee acting together. The secretary shall prepare an agenda for the meeting. The Chairman, or in his absence the Vice Chairman shall be Chairman of the committee. If both are absent, members present shall elect one of their number to preside at the meeting. The Chairman, or member presiding, shall have a second and casting vote where there is an equality of votes. Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for a meeting, and the quorum shall be maintained throughout the meeting. Minutes of all Committee meetings, signed by the Chairman, or person acting as Chairman, shall be kept and be available to all members of the Trust. The Committee shall have powers to co-opt other members of the Trust to attend meetings, but they shall have no voting rights. Also it may appoint such other committees as it may be deemed necessary.

7. PECUNIARY INTERESTS

If any member of the committee has a pecuniary interest in a matter under discussion, the member must declare it and withdraw from the meeting until the Committee has made its decision.

8. AGM and SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The AGM shall be held once a year, normally in May, to elect members of the committee as necessary, approve the accounts, receive reports from the Chairman and the Secretary, and conduct any further business.

A special General Meeting may be called by resolution of the Committee or by written demand of not less than 8 members of the Trust acting together. Normally not less than two weeks notice of the time and place of the AGM or Special General Meeting shall be given by the Secretary who shall post notices of these details in the village.

At such meetings the Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall preside. In their absence those persons present shall, before any business is transacted, elect one of their number to preside. A quorum at these shall consist of 10 members of the Trust. Every matter, except as provided for under this Constitution, shall be determined by a majority of members present. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a second and casting vote where there is an equality of votes. Minutes of the meeting shall be kept and be available to members of the Trust.

9. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions shall be fixed at the AGM and shall remain in force until amended if so required to be at the next AGM. Subscriptions shall fall due on the day of the AGM.

10. FINANCE

The Trust shall have the power to raise money by means of subscriptions, donations, grants and other sources. The income of the Trust shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects. No portion thereof shall be paid or transferred to any member of the Trust, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable expenses incurred by an Officer or member of the Trust.

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the custody of the funds and for keeping a record of receipts and payments. An audited statement of accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer at the AGM.

The accounting year shall be from the first day of April to the last day of March.

11. DISSOLUTION

The Trust may at any time be dissolved by a resolution supported by two-thirds of those members of the Trust present and voting at a special General Meeting convened for the express purpose of dissolving the Trust. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of the Trust's assets. Any funds remaining after debts and liabilities have been dealt with may be given or transferred to other bodies having objects similar to those of the Trust.

12. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The rules of the Trust may be altered only at an AGM or Special General Meeting with a two-thirds majority of those members present and voting. Notice of any proposed change must be given to the Secretary at least one month before the meeting.

This Constitution was adopted in May 1995 with amendments adopted at a Special General Meeting March 2003.