

The Middle Way Society Constitution

Created 5th Oct 2013; Amended 11 Sept 2023

1 NAME

The charity's name is The Middle Way Society

2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE:-

To advance the education of the public on the subject of the Middle Way.

3 TRUSTEES

The charity shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity.

4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

- (1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) Apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
- (4) Do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5 MEMBERSHIP

The charity shall have a membership. People who support the work of the charity and are aged 18 and over, who sign up to the email mailing list are automatically considered members until they unsubscribe from this list, or are removed by the trustees.

The trustees will review the mailing list at least annually and can request members at reasonable intervals to reply to the MWS to confirm they are still active members and wish to still receive information about the society's activities and AGM.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity- by blocking them from being able to rejoin the mailing list and attending future MWS events.

Criteria for blocking may include but are not limited to the following inappropriate conduct:

- Trustees believe that the email account is not a genuine member, i.e. a bot, or spammer account or has or is likely to send malicious content such as viruses or spyware.
- inappropriate conduct causing disruption or distress to other members at online or face-to-face meetings.
- conduct felt by the trustees against the spirit and purposes of the MWS ethos (i.e. hate speech, extremist views or discrimination)

-conduct believed to be for the purpose of misusing MWS funds or resources for personal gain

The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before being blocked from the membership.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – AGM

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days' notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (2) There must be at least 3 members present at the AGM.
- (3) Every member has one vote.
- (4) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
- (5) Any member may stand for election as a trustee **who is known to at least one exiting trustee and has attended at least one MWS event or meeting.**
- (6) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.
- (7) A member who holds office (i.e. chairman, secretary or treasurer) is automatically admitted as a trustee.

7 TRUSTEE MEETINGS

- (1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees may act by majority decision.
- (2) A quorum of at least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to allow major decisions to be taken.
Major decisions are defined as decisions affecting the constitution, the membership, or society policy.
- (3) Occasional inquorate meetings of committee members may occur at which minor operational decisions may be taken. Except in exceptional or pressing circumstances, major decisions (as defined) are not allowed at inquorate meetings. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (4) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (5) During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.
- (5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.
- (6) **Trustees by ⅔ majority can also remove a trustee from the committee before the next AGM at a trustees meeting, using the same criteria as for blocking membership in section 5. This would also by definition result in a blocked membership of MWS as a whole.**

8 MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.

(3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out-of-pocket expenses.

(4) Money must be held in the charity's bank account. At the treasurer's discretion, small amounts (e.g. membership subscriptions) may be held short-term in the society's PayPal account pending transfer to the main account.

(5) All cheques must be signed by 2 trustees. **The bank account is to have 2 trustees (the treasurer and at least one other) to authorise online payments.**

9 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the Trustees consider it necessary to change the constitution or wind up the charity, **this must occur at the AGM** or they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two-thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

(1) Winding up - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one, **as decided by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the membership present at a final general meeting.**

(2) Changes to the Constitution - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.

(3) General Meeting - called on written request from a majority of members.

(4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

10 SETTING UP THE CHARITY

The society was first formally constituted on 5th October, 2013. This amended constitution was adopted on 11th Sept 2023 by the following members present at the AGM on that date.

A signed copy is held by the secretary of the society.