

# **WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP (WATAG)**

## **Constitution**

The West Dorset Western Area Transport Action Group is a non party-political, not-for-profit organisation

### **1. Aims**

The aims of the West Dorset Western Area Transport Action Group (WATAG) shall be to:

- a) Seek and achieve sustainable improvement in Transport Provision within the six Dorset Council electoral wards of Beaminster, Bridport, Chesil Bank, Eggardon, Lyme & Charmouth and Marshwood Vale and the area of successor divisions following any future re-organisation. In particular, WATAG shall seek to help those without access to a car and to make low carbon alternatives to car use more attractive, recognising the importance of the climate and ecological emergency and to seek and achieve sustainable transport links between these areas, neighbouring electoral wards, counties and elsewhere.
- b) Work with Town and Parish Councils within the area defined in Aim “a”, Dorset Council and other Transport Action Groups (TAGs) in Dorset to provide informed input to proposals that deliver the aims defined.
- c) Set out a long-term vision for the transport system in the WATAG and surrounding areas using the principles set out in Aim “a”
- d) Work with bus and rail operators and other local transport organisations to make constructive suggestions about how local public transport provision may be improved
- e) Raise and employ funds (in a non-profit making manner), to be used for the purpose of improving transport facilities within the area.

### **2. Membership**

Membership of WATAG is open to any person that has an interest in the Group’s aims and lives locally, subject to approval by the committee. Members may also include representatives of town and parish councils, transport organisations, transport providers and individuals with an interest in improving local connectivity. All approved members will have one vote in respect of the formal business of WATAG and will appoint members to the committee.

# **WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP (WATAG)**

## **3. Committee (Advisory Group)**

- a) There shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer as principal officers. Other officers may be appointed if the circumstances require and subject to approval by members.
- b) WATAG will be managed by the four principal officers and at least two other members who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- c) The Committee will approve, reject or terminate (with good reason) membership. Any member may appeal to the committee at the AGM, if they feel that the committee has acted unreasonably in respect of termination of membership.
- d) The committee (or "Advisory Group") will organise the affairs of WATAG, including arrangements for meetings and the AGM.
- e) The Committee shall meet no less than six (6) times a year.
- f) Notes of the Committee meetings shall be available to all members.
- g) The Committee may introduce, co-opt or appoint new members.

## **4. General Meetings**

WATAG will normally hold at least three open General Meetings per year which may be attended by anybody. These may be held by video conference facilities if deemed necessary or desirable. In the event of a formal vote being called for, only members will be allowed to vote.

The Secretary will publicise all general meetings at least five (5) days in advance.

## **5. Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

- a) There shall be an Annual General Meeting held every 12 months (usually in January) at which the Committee reports on its work, presents a statement of accounts and then resigns.
- b) The AGM shall elect a new Committee, presided over by the outgoing Chair if present, and vote on recommendations and any amendments to the Constitution.
- c) The Secretary will notify all members of the date of the AGM not less than fourteen (14) days before the AGM

## **6. Other General Meetings**

A Special or Extraordinary General Meeting open to all members will be held if the Committee or more than five (5) members submit in writing a request for such a meeting to the Secretary. The Secretary shall arrange for the meeting to take place within twenty one (21) days.

The Secretary will publicise all general meetings at least five (5) days in advance.

# **WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP (WATAG)**

## **7. Quorum**

No General Meeting (GM), Annual General Meeting (AGM) or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall take place if fewer than ten (10) members are present.

No Committee meeting shall take place if less than half of the Committee are present.

## **8 Financial Matters**

- a) The Treasurer shall maintain a bank account in the name of the Organisation
- b) Treasurer shall have the Accounts checked annually by an independent examiner
- c) The financial year will end on 31st December each year.
- d) WATAG must not undertake any financial commitments which exceed its currently held funds.
- e) Any grants or other funds raised, including donations, must only be used to pursue the objects of the organisation.
- f) Online (BACS) and all other payments will be paid on authority of the Chair or Vice Chair.

## **9 Changes to The Constitution**

The constitution can only be altered at the AGM or by an EGM.

Any suggested changes to the constitution must be handed to the Secretary thirty (30) days before the AGM or EGM.

Changes to the constitution must be agreed by a simple majority of the members present at the meeting.

The Chair shall have the casting vote, should the original vote be tied.

None of the aims of the Organisation listed in Section 2 may be deleted.

## **10. Dissolution**

The Organisation may only be dissolved at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose and must be advertised fourteen (14) days before the meeting.

A proposal to dissolve the Organisation shall only be accepted if supported by two thirds of the members present. The decision shall be agreed by a simple majority of eligible voters at the meeting.

Funds and possessions will be disposed of by a gift for charitable purposes in the area to a charity having substantially similar objects to the Organisation and in each case as agreed by a simple majority of the members present in person or by proxy at the meeting.

No members of the Organisation shall receive any benefit either in cash or in kind from any disposal of the Organisation's assets.

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## 11. Standing Orders

Members shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a reasonable manner at meetings or in the premises used by the Organisation and be excluded if they contravene the objectives of the organisation. This will be done by a majority of those present and voting at any Committee or general meeting.

Any members may make a proposal. In order for it to be voted on by other members it must be seconded, (or supported) by someone else.

Only members attending the meeting - in personal or "virtually" - may vote. The only exception to the above rule will be for members whose disabilities or medical condition make it impossible to attend a meeting. In these circumstances such members may empower the Chairperson or Secretary to vote on their behalf.

Before voting any member may propose an amendment which must also be seconded.

The Chairperson shall have the casting vote when there is equal voting.

**This Constitution was adopted by the** Extraordinary General Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and supersedes all and any previous versions.

Signed .....

Full Name .....

Position .....

Signed .....

Full Name .....

Position.....