

Cheshire Smallholders Association

Constitution and Rules

Article

1. Title

The title of the Association shall be: The Cheshire Smallholders Association.

2. Address

The official address of the Association shall be that of the Honorary Secretary at that time.

3. Objectives

The objectives of the Association shall be: To impart knowledge on:

- i. The proper care and treatment of animals, poultry and other livestock generally associated with smallholding.
- ii. The use, care and repair and maintenance of tools and equipment.
- iii. The use, care and cultivation of land with due consideration for the environment.
- iv. The use, repair and upkeep of buildings and buildings services associated with smallholding activities.
- v. The regulations of whatever kind which might apply to smallholding.

The Association is to be operated as a 'not for profit' organisation.

4. Membership

- i. Applications for membership shall be made to the Membership Secretary
- ii. Membership shall include all persons normally resident at the address of the applicant, and is defined as one household membership. That one household shall have one vote
- iii. If any company or similar organisations becomes a member, that organisation shall appoint a representative who shall be responsible for payment of membership fee. Such membership and fee shall be decided by the Committee in each case. That one organisation shall have one vote.
- iv. Members (one household as defined above) may invite not more than four guests to lectures on payment of the individual lecture fee at the time for each and all of those attending.
- v. Members may not invite guests to any courses of instruction or demonstration
- vi. One representative from each household (or company) that wishes to be a member of the Cheshire Smallholder Association shall sign a Membership Registration Form which includes acceptance of the Constitution and Rules of the Cheshire Smallholder Association and this shall list all members of the household who wish to be allied to the Association.

5. Committee and Officers

- i. The business of Association shall be managed by a Committee of eight elected from the membership, plus co-opted members and officers as provided below
- ii. Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting, the Committee having previously invited nominations at least two weeks prior to the Annual General meeting
- iii. If after calling for nominations a Committee of eight members cannot be formed, then those members of the Committee who are not retiring may co-opt additional members from the membership
- iv. The Committee so elected shall appoint a Chairman from the eight elected members. The post of Chairman shall normally be held for a period of between two and four consecutive years..
- v. An Honorary Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Group Training Officer shall be appointed by the Committee. These officers may be selected from the eight elected members or may be co-opted from the membership for the operation of the Association.
- vi. The normal term of office for any committee member shall be three years.
- vii. The Committee may invite a member to be President of the Association for any period. The President shall be invited onto the Committee as a co-opted member.

- viii. More than 50% of the members of the Committee shall form a quorum; in the absence of the Chairman those members present shall appoint an acting Chairman for the duration of the meeting.
- ix. The Committee shall make decisions based on a simple majority vote excluding the Chairman (or acting Chairman). Elected and co-opted Committee members shall have equal voting rights. In respect of a tied vote, the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

6. Subscriptions and Finance

- i. The Associations year shall be from 1st September to 31st August
- ii. Each member (household as defined above) shall pay an annual subscription in September of each year. The amount of subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting, and shall be introduced from that date.
Failure to pay the current annual subscription by the end of December of the current Association year shall automatically terminate membership.
Members who join and pay their subscription after 1st June shall be counted as members for the season commencing 1st September.
- iii. In addition to the annual subscription, each member shall pay:
 - a. A lecture fee on attendance
 - b. A training course fee; the fee is payable in default of attendance without prior notice of a least one month if an alternative attendee cannot be found.
- iv. The amount of the lecture fee shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee and shall be announced at the Annual General meeting. The Committee shall be empowered to announce any special course or demonstration fee at any time.
- v. There shall be no reduction in any fees for any reason other than agreed by the Committee.
- vi. A Bank Account in the name of the Association shall be opened and shall be administered by the Treasurer.
- vii. The Treasurer shall prepare annually:
 - a. A Statement of Income and Expenditure
 - b. A Statement of Assets and LiabilitiesBoth these statements, shall after audit, be presented to members at the Annual General Meeting.

7. Training

- i. Training shall only be available to those persons who belong to a membership that has signed the Membership Registration Form (refer to Article 4. Vii.) except where age limits are stipulated by any Rule, regulation or Code of Practice.
- ii. Training shall only be available to members.
- iii. The Committee shall ensure that a Programme of Training is prepared to meet the membership needs.

8. Meetings

- i. The Committee shall arrange an Annual General meeting by 1st December at which the following reports shall be made:
 - a. Activities during the past year
 - b. Proposed activities for the ensuing year
 - c. Statement of Income and Expenditure
 - d. Statement of Assets and LiabilitiesAt least two weeks notice shall be given of the Annual General Meeting
- ii. The Chairman may call an Extraordinary General Meeting at any time and shall also arrange an Extraordinary General Meeting on the request for such to the Committee by at least one third of the members, (households as defined above) or the request of the majority of the Committee. At least two weeks prior notice shall be given of any Extraordinary General Meeting.
- iii. At any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting, ten members, (households as defined above), shall form a quorum.
- iv. The one vote of any member (households as defined above), shall be exercised by attendance at a relevant meeting, or in writing, but not by proxy.
- v. Decisions shall be by majority vote of members (households as defined above) present, excluding the Chairman, (or acting Chairman, appointed for the duration of the meeting), taking account of written votes. In the event of a tied vote, the Chairman (or acting Chairman), shall have the casting vote.
- vi. The Committee shall meet as often as necessary to deal with the business of the Association.

9. Responsibility And Liabilities

- i. Neither the Association nor the Committee shall be responsible for the loss, damage or injury to any article of property or livestock or persons of whatsoever kind belonging to or in charge of any member.
- ii. Similarly, neither the Association nor the Committee nor any members of the Association shall be responsible for the effect either immediate or subsequent of any service or advice given in good faith save that this shall not absolve anyone from proven negligence nor of their public or social responsibilities.
- iii. Members, (households as defined above) shall have equal possession of assets and equal liability for Association debts.
- iv. The liability of Association Officers shall not exceed that of members unless by negligence or fault proven in court.

10. Amendments

- i. No amendments shall be made to this Constitution and Rules except by agreement of at least two thirds of the members, (households as defined above) present at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

11. Winding Up

- i. The Association may be would up if three months notice in writing is given to the Chairman of the resolution, and two thirds or more of the members (households as defined above) present at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting so desire.
- ii. If at the Annual General Meeting, or at any meeting of the Cheshire Smallholders Association Committee a resolution is passed calling for the dissolution of the Association, the Secretary will convene an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the members to be held not less than one month and not more than three months thereafter, to discuss and vote on the resolution, with one vote available for each subscribed household.
- iii. If at that EGM the resolution is carried the Committee will thereupon instruct the Auditor and / or Treasurer to donate or transfer all assets belonging to the Association to a Registered Charity, nominated by a member, having aims similar to those of the Cheshire Smallholders Association.
- iv. In the event of more than one nomination, the organisation(s) with the most votes at the EGM will receive the assets. In the event of a tied vote, assets will be divided equally, as far as possible, between the organisations with the most votes. If no other organisations are nominated, the Cheshire Smallholders Association's assets will be donated or transferred to the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.