

REGISTERED CHARITY 1095331

This constitution to be proposed by the membership at the AGM to be held at an appropriate time in the future.

1. NAME

The name of the charity is WHITLEY BAY U3A hereafter referred to as WBU3A

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below the Charity and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constituted by the members of the Executive Committee, constitution by clause 6 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS

The objects of WBU3A are:

- (i) The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.
- (ii) The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interest of their social welfare.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise, the Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:

- (i) Power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Executive Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any requirements of the law.
- (ii) Power to receive donations, endowments, sponsorship, grants, legacies and subscriptions from persons desiring to promote all or any of the Object of WBU3A and to hold funds in trust for the same.
- (iii) Power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the Object and to maintain and equip it for use.
- (iv) Power subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the charity.
- (v) Power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Object or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
- (vi) Power to support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects
- (vii) Power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit.
- (viii) Power to organise and run conferences, lectures, seminars, courses.

- (ix) Power to publish, books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, instructional matter and to produce films and videos.
- (x) Power to associate and collaborate with other U3A's and groupings of U3A's such as regional associations and networks and the Third Age Trust (TAT)
- (xi) Power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievements of the Objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- (i) Membership of WBU3A shall be open to individuals who are interested in furthering the work of WBU3A and who have paid the annual subscription as determined by the Executive Committee and confirmed by the membership at an Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) Every individual member shall have one vote.
- (iii) The Executive Committee may and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual if annual membership or other fees are unpaid 2 months after the due date or if the member acts in a way which is prejudicial to WBU3A or to the running of WBU3A or brings it into disrepute provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee accompanied by a friend acting in their personal capacity, who may also speak, or make written representation before a final decision is made.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The management of WBU3A shall be vested in an Executive Committee, consisting of the members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, managements and control of the affairs and property of WBU3A.

- (i) Officers
At the Annual General Meeting of WBU3A the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chairman, a secretary and a treasurer who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.
- (ii) Executive Committee
The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 10 members being:
 - a. The officers specified in the preceding clause
 - b. Not less than 2 and not more than 7 members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.
- (iii) The Executive Committee may in addition appoint not more than 3 co-opted members who shall have full voting rights and have tenure until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (iv) The Executive Committee may fill any vacancy arising amongst the officers and the non-officer Executive Committee members until the following Annual General Meeting. Any such appointee must be a member of the

WBU3A. A person so appointed, who shall have full voting rights, may stand for appointment to a first full term at that meeting.

- (v) The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by a failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of a member.
- (vi) A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
 - a. Is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of The Charities Act (2011)
 - b. Becomes incapable by means of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs.
 - c. Is absent without permission of the Executive Committee, from 3 consecutive committee meetings.
 - d. Is subject to a vote of no confidence from the Executive Committee as a result of actions which bring WBU3A into disrepute or conduct prejudicial to WBU3A or failure to abide by the terms of this constitution or decisions of the Executive Committee.
 - e. Notified in writing to the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least four members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect which shall be at least 21 days from the receipt of the notification).

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (i) The election of members of the Executive Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of WBU3A. The newly elected Executive Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) Chairman shall serve for a term of two years only and may not hold office without any intervening period of at least one year off committee. Treasurer and Secretary shall serve for two years and may be nominated for a further term of two years and then stand down for at least a year off committee. Other committee members shall serve on exactly the same durations as the Treasurer and Secretary.
- (iii) If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies for Officers/Committee members, the Executive Committee may as a last resort, appeal to the assembled members at the Annual General Meeting for permission to ask whether anyone present was willing to reconsider and put themselves forward as a candidate for one of the vacancies. A vote must be taken on this motion and must be carried by not less than two thirds of the members present for the request to be made.
- (iv) In the event of no nominations being received for one or more of the Officer posts or no member of the newly elected committee being willing to take on one or more of the Officer positions a majority decision can be taken by the Executive Committee to ask the retiring officer to stay until the next AGM.

8. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (i) The Executive Committee shall hold at least 4 ordinary meetings each year.
- (ii) A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Executive Committee upon not less than seven days' notice being given to other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed unless it concerns the appointment of a co-opted member in which case not less than twenty one days must be given.

- (iii) The Chairman shall chair the meeting and in their absence the Executive Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting before any business is transacted.
- (iv) There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the numbers of members of the Executive Committee for the time being or three members of the Executive Committee whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting.
- (v) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (vi) The Executive Committee shall keep minutes of the proceedings at meetings of the Executive Committee and any sub-committees and these minutes shall be available for inspection should a member request it.
- (vii) Executive Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and custody of documents including but not limited to, the use of electronic communications. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.
- (viii) The Executive Committee may appoint sub-committee consisting of at least one member of the Executive Committee for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.
- (ix) No Executive Committee member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any act done or omitted to be done by him/her or by any other Executive Committee member or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Executive Committee member or by reason of any other matter other than wilful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of the Executive Committee member in question.

9. FINANCE

- (i) The funds of WBU3A, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of WBU3A at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least 2 Executive Committee members. For online banking operations, a single signature for cheques issues and the authority for Bank Transfer Payments is agreed after a "Dual Authorisation" is approved via e-mail by a second signatory.
- (ii) The funds belonging to WBU3A shall be applied only in furthering the Objects.
- (iii) No funds shall be transferred in any way to Committee members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of U3A work.
- (iv) All proper costs charges and expenses incidental to the management of WBU3A and membership of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of WBU3A

10. PROPERTY

- (i) All property of WBU3A shall be applied solely toward the Objects of WBU3A. Ownership of property is vested in WBU3A and items may with the agreement of the committee be transferred on a temporary basis to a nominated member's home in pursuance of their designated role until such time as the member's tenure of office ceases or the Executive Committee request its return.

11. ACCOUNTS

The executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 2011 with regard to:

- (i) The keeping of accounting records for WBU3A and the preparation of annual statements of account for WBU3A.
- (ii) The independent examination of the statements of account of WBU3A and
- (iii) The transmission of the statements of account of WBU3A to the Charity Commission.

12. ANNUAL REPORT

The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 2011 with regard to the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commission.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (i) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of WBU3A which shall be held in the month of May in each year or as soon as practicable thereafter but not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give at least 21 days notice of the Annual General Meeting to all the members of WBU3A. All the members of WBU3A shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- (iii) Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting.
- (iv) The Executive Committee shall present to each Annual General Meeting the report and accounts of WBU3A for the preceding year for approval.
- (v) The Executive Committee shall seek approval for the appointment of the examiner for the accounts.
- (vi) Nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be made by members in writing and must be in the hands of the secretary of the Executive Committee at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, elections shall be by ballot.

Any proposals to amend the constitution subject to clause 16 shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting and any other business published in the agenda.

14. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Executive Committee may call a Special General Meeting of the charity at any time and if at least one fifth of the members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered, the Secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days' notice shall be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed. There shall be a quorum when one fifth of the members are present.

15. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETING

The Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting of WBU3A. There shall be a quorum when at least one fifth of the number of members of WBU3A are present at any General Meeting.

- (i) If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened at the request of the members shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall stand adjourned to a suitable day and time as the Executive Committee may direct, provided that 21 days notice is given to all members. If at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall constitute a quorum.
- (ii) The Chairman of WBU3A shall be the Chairman of the General Meeting at which they are present.
- (iii) If there is a tied vote the Chairman should have a single casting vote.

16. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (i) Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
- (ii) No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity) clause 3 (the Objects clause) clause 17 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Charity Commission.
- (iii) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.

The Executive Committee shall promptly send to the charity commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

17. DISSOLUTION

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve WBU3A it shall call a meeting of all members of WBU3A, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting the Executive Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to other such local charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Objects of WBU3A as the members of WBU3A may determine or to the Third Age Trust registered Charity No. 288007. A copy of the statements of accounts or account and statement, for the final accounting period of WBU3A must be sent to the Charity Commission.

