



# **Gloucestershire Badger Group**

## **Constitution**



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## 1) Name

The name of the group shall be Gloucestershire Badger Group.

## 2) Purpose and Objectives

Gloucestershire Badger Group (referred to in this document as 'the Group' or GBG) is made up of voluntary members whose common interest is the protection of badgers. The Group is a full member of The Badger Trust (charity no. 1111440).

All active members will work towards enhancing the understanding, welfare, protection and conservation of badgers (as a species and individual badgers) so that the animal may lead a natural life without hindrance and interference wherever possible.

To achieve this objective, the Group's activities will include (but will not be restricted to):

- a) Carry out sett surveying, recording and monitoring (maintaining secure records to assist the work of the Group, responding to any sett reports submitted to Badger Trust and passed on to the group, and to aid in supporting the police or RSPCA in any criminal investigation).
- b) Facilitate the rescue, treatment, rehabilitation and/or return of injured or orphaned badgers (in accordance with the current Badger Rehabilitation Protocol).
- c) Respond competently to threats to badgers, their setts and habitats.
- d) Oppose badger culls.
- e) Give advice to householders, landowners, statutory agencies and others concerning the treatment of badger related problems.
- f) Deliver assistance to the RSPCA, police, other responsible authorities in relation to badger welfare matters.
- g) Monitor planning and development activities in the area and responding as appropriate to potential threats to badgers.
- h) To support and promote the vaccination of badgers against bovine tuberculosis (bTB).

### 3) Status

- a) The Group shall be non-profit making.
- b) The Group may affiliate to or obtain membership of such organisations as the Committee considers appropriate provided such affiliation or membership is in all respects consistent with the objects of the Group.

### 4) Membership

- a) Full membership of the Group shall be open to any individual who accepts its Constitution and Rules whether or not they choose to be actively involved. However, the Group reserves the right to refuse membership where there are grounds to believe that this is not the case.
- b) A person shall be deemed to be a paid-up member of the Group if they have registered as a member and have paid the current subscription.
- c) All paid-up members shall be entitled to attend and vote at all General Meetings of the Group and stand for election to the Committee. All members 18 and over are entitled to vote at AGMs/EGMs and stand for election to the Committee.
- d) Members under 18 must have permission of parent or guardian to join the Group. Members under 18 will not have to pay a membership fee and will not have a vote. They will be able to participate in discussions but will need to attend with their parent or guardian to participate in the Group's activities.
- e) A person shall cease to be a member of the Group if their subscription falls twelve months in arrears.
- f) A person shall cease to be a member of the Group if their conduct is considered to be detrimental to the objectives of the Group by not less than two thirds of the Committee members present and voting at a special meeting convened to consider the matter. Such a person will be given reasonable notice in writing of the special meeting and may submit an explanation of their conduct in writing or in person to the Committee before the vote is taken.

- g) Without prior authorisation from the Committee, no member or Committee member may speak on behalf of the Group, except when expressing the views contained in any Policy Document of the Group. In all other cases members must make clear that the views expressed are their own.
- h) The Committee shall maintain an up-to-date record of the names and addresses supplied by all members of the Group, and that record shall be conclusive for the purpose of any notice required by virtue of this Constitution. The Group's membership records will remain confidential to the committee. Personal data will be held in accordance with GDPR.
- i) The Committee shall have power to extend to any person at its discretion honorary membership of the Group and to revoke the same in like manner. An honorary member may receive publications of the Group and participate by invitation in activities of the Group and shall have the right to vote at any General Meeting of the Group or to stand for election to the Committee.

## 5) Subscriptions

- a) The subscription for membership of the Group shall be determined annually by the Committee.
- b) All subscriptions to the Group shall be due on 1st April each year.
- c) A person joining the Group in January to March inclusive shall have their subscription credited for the following year.
- d) Honorary Life Membership may be offered to members or past members of the Group who have made a significant contribution to its activities. Such Honorary Membership must be approved at a General Meeting of the Group and must have prior endorsement of the Committee. An Honorary Life Member shall have full voting rights.

## 6) Management

- a) The affairs of the Group shall be managed by a Committee consisting of Chair, General Secretary, Treasurer, Field Officer, Membership Secretary, and other members as required.

- b) The Committee shall have power, for the furtherance of the objects of the Group and for the proper and efficient running of the Group for that purpose, to raise and spend money, to insure and to do on behalf of the Group anything of whatsoever nature which the Group could lawfully do except those things which are by the virtue of this Constitution required to be done by the members of the Group in a General Meeting.
- c) All the Committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting from the members of the Group.
- d) Committee Members are expected to be fully involved in the running of the Group, including attending meetings. Failure to do so could result in their removal from their post, subject to the discretion of the majority of Committee Members.
- e) If during the period of office of the Committee a vacancy occurs, the Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy.
- f) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt extra members as they feel necessary for temporary or permanent duties and such co-opted members shall have full voting rights at Committee meetings. The Committee shall also have the power to co-opt other individuals in an advisory capacity, but these individuals will not have full voting rights.
- g) The Chair shall preside at all General Meetings and Committee Meetings. In the Chair's absence the Treasurer shall take the chair. In the absence of both Chair and Treasurer, the meeting shall elect one of their number to preside and the member so elected shall be vested with the full power of the Chair for the duration of the meeting.
- h) The Committee shall be empowered to appoint Sub-Committees for specific purposes.
- i) All the Committee members shall retire at the Annual General meeting and shall be eligible for re-election. Should there be more than one candidate for a post, an election will be held by ballot.
- j) Not less than three Committee members shall form a quorum at a Committee meeting.

- k) Meetings shall be held as the Committee sees fit. A simple majority in favour shall suffice to settle matters put to the vote. The Chair shall have the casting vote at all meetings in the event of a tied vote.
- l) Any proposal or motion put forward by two or more members and received by the General Secretary at least 28 days before a meeting must be included in the agenda for that meeting.
- m) The General Secretary, or another Committee member in their absence, shall keep minutes of all meetings which shall be available to any member of the Group.

## 7) General Meetings

### Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The Annual General meeting shall be held no later than three calendar months after the end of the financial year of the Group:

- a) Receive the Annual Report, Committee Members' reports including the Treasurer's scrutinised accounts.
- b) Conduct any other business of which due notice has been given to the members.
- c) Effect the election of the new Committee as required by the Constitution.
- d) Consider any amendments to the Constitution.
- e) Nominations for Committee members must be submitted to the Chair prior to the AGM, consent of the nominees having been obtained beforehand.
- f) Any other items for inclusion in the agenda must be submitted to the Chair at least twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting. Any motion on proper notice will be put to the meeting unless in the opinion of the Committee it is inappropriate.
- g) Notice of the AGM must be circulated to the members at least 14 days before the meeting.

- h) No business shall be transacted unless a quorum of not less than six members or 10% of the membership whichever is more, of whom at least two shall be Committee Members, is present.
- i) The Chair shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

#### Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM)

- a) Extraordinary General Meetings may be called at any time by the Secretary within twenty-eight days of being requested either by the majority of the Committee or not less than 10% of the members of the Group.
- b) The notice convening the meeting shall state that it is an Extraordinary General Meeting and shall specify the purpose for which it is being held.
- c) Members shall receive fourteen days' notice of such a meeting.
- d) No business shall be transacted unless a quorum of not less than six members or 10% of the membership whichever is more, of whom at least two shall be Committee members, is present.
- e) The Chair shall have a casting vote in the event of a tie.

#### 8) Finances

- a) All monies raised by or on behalf of the Group shall be applied in furthering the aims and objectives of the Group.
- b) The Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Group and report accordingly to the Committee on a regular basis.
- c) The approval the Treasurer, and one other of the Chair or General Secretary, shall be necessary on any transaction expending Group funds. Prior approval of the full Committee shall be necessary for expenditure of amounts over £50.00.
- d) Members who incur travelling or other reasonable out-of-pocket expenses in the service of the Group shall be entitled to apply for reimbursement from the Group's funds.



- e) It is deemed a term of every contract or engagement entered under the terms of this Constitution that the funds of the Group alone are to be liable for any debts, obligations or engagements incurred or entered into on behalf of the Group and that no member or Committee member of the Group is to be under any personal liability in respect thereof.
- f) The financial year of the Group shall be from 1st April to 31st March.
- g) The Treasurer requires internet banking. Another member of the Committee must also be set up as a secondary user for internet banking. The secondary user is to have full authorisation on the account but with the expectation that this would only be used in the Treasurer's absence.
- h) The accounts of the finances of the organisation shall be scrutinised on an annual basis by an independent person.

## 9) Constitution

- a) The Constitution may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting.
- b) An amendment to the Constitution shall be effective only if approved by at least two-thirds of the members present.
- c) Ten members shall form a quorum for the purpose of considering an amendment to the Constitution.
- d) New members will receive a copy of the Constitution at the time of joining the Group.

## 10) Dissolution

- a) The Group shall be dissolved if two-thirds of the members present at an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for the purpose shall be in favour.
- b) The Group shall be deemed to be automatically dissolved should the membership at any time fall below that necessary to form a quorum at the Annual General Meeting.
- c) In the event of dissolution, it shall be the duty of the General Secretary to

notify the organisations to which the Group is affiliated.

- d) Any unallocated funds after settlement of all debts shall not be distributed but shall be donated to Badger Trust.

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