

Constitution

1. **Title**

The title shall be the Rustic Volunteers of the Rural Life Centre (hereinafter referred to as “the Rustic Volunteers”).

2. **Objectives**

(i) To support the aims and all activities taking place at the Rural Life Centre with the approval of the Trustees of the Old Kiln Museum Trust (hereinafter referred to as “the Trust”).

(ii) To arrange social activities for the membership.

(iii) To raise funds and to do all such other lawful things as shall further the objects of the Trust.

3. **Membership**

Membership of the Rustic Volunteers shall be open to individuals, subject to the approval of the Committee, who are active volunteers or long-term supporters of the Rural Life Centre. Active volunteers and their partners qualify for the special volunteers’ concessionary membership fee. Long-term supporters pay the standard membership fee.

**Classes of Membership:**

(i) **Individual Member.** who when fully paid up, will be entitled to free entry to the Rural Life Centre during normal opening hours on production of a valid membership card; have made available a copy of Rustic Volunteers’ papers and have one vote for each resolution at a general meeting. Further copies of papers and publications, if available, will be supplied on such terms as the Committee shall determine.

(ii) **Life Member** who shall receive all the benefits of an Individual Member for life upon receipt of a single payment. The first 30 Life Members shall be known as Founder Members.

(iii) **Joint Rustic Volunteer Member** (life or annual) who shall be two adults living at the same address, will each be entitled to the benefits of Individual Members but will have made available one joint copy of Rustic Volunteers’ papers.

(iv) **Honorary Members.** The Trust, in consultation with the Committee, shall have power from time to time to appoint any suitable person to be an Honorary (either life or annual) member of the Rustic Volunteers. Honorary Members shall be entitled to all privileges of Individual Membership but shall not be liable to pay a membership fee.

4. **Membership Fees**

The membership fees shall be determined by the Trust, in consultation with the officers and Committee of the Rustic Volunteers. The Annual General Meeting shall be informed of any changes and such fees shall become due and payable to the Trust on 1st January each year. Any person whose membership fee remains unpaid after 1st August in any year shall be suspended.

5. **Officers**

The officers of the Rustic Volunteers shall be the Chairman, Vice-chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and all four shall be fully paid-up members of the Rustic Volunteers. The officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Rustic Volunteers to hold office for one year.

6. **Committee**

The Committee shall consist of the officers and five other members, one or two of whom can be elected at each Annual General Meeting for a period of three years. The Committee shall meet at least four times a year. A quorum shall consist of not less than half the members of the Committee including at least one of the officers. The officers and the Committee shall have powers to co-opt members to assist the Committee. A representative from amongst

the Trust and nominated by them shall be eligible to attend and speak at all Committee meetings but will have no voting rights.

The Committee shall cause proper Minutes to be made of all appointments of officers and proceedings of all meetings of the Rustic Volunteers and of all business transacted at such meetings. Such Minutes, if purporting to be signed by the chairman of such meeting (normally the Chairman or Vice-chairman) or by the Chairman of the succeeding meeting, shall be sufficient evidence without any proof of the facts therein stated.

The Committee shall cause accounts to be kept and a simple Annual Report to be prepared. Accounts must be subjected to an independent examination but do not need to be audited. A copy of the accounts for the preceding year should be made available to members at least 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Cheques issued shall require the signatures of any two officers.

#### **7. President/Vice-president**

The Committee shall have the power to nominate from time to time, from among the membership, a President and any number of Vice-presidents who shall be full members of the Rustics Volunteers. The positions will be honorary and post holders will be eligible to attend and speak at Committee meetings though will not have the right to vote on any resolution.

#### **8. General-Meetings**

(i) An Annual General Meeting shall be held in March each year to elect officers and members of the Committee and to receive the Reports of the officers for the preceding year. At least 21 days notice of the meeting shall be made available to members together with any nominations already received for election as an officer or member of the Committee, the text of any Resolutions with the names of proposer and seconder and a copy of the Financial Statement for the preceding year.

(ii) An Extraordinary General Meeting may be summoned at any time, subject to 14 days notice to all members, by the Chairman or not less than half of the members of the Committee or not less than 10 per cent of the members of the Rustic Volunteers.

(iii) A quorum for a General Meeting shall consist of not less than 20 fully paid-up members of the Rustic Volunteers.

#### **9. Copyright**

**Copyright of all material published by the Rustic Volunteers shall be vested in the Trust and assignment shall be at the discretion of the Trustees.**

#### **10. Winding Up**

The Rustic Volunteers may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting held in accordance with provisions of this Constitution. Thereafter the Committee shall pay the surplus funds of the Rustic Volunteers to the Trust or such other charitable institution or institution as the Committee shall determine and with approval of the Charity Commission.

#### **11. Alterations to the Constitution**

This Constitution shall not be altered except by a majority resolution carried at a General Meeting of the Rustic Volunteers.

Approved and adopted at the first Annual General Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> January 1991 and amended by the AGMs on 20<sup>th</sup> March 1994, 16<sup>th</sup> March 1997, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2001, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2003, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2011, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

**Rustic Constitution Amended Mar 19 2017**