

# Constitution

of the

## Gamlingay Environmental Action Group

<b>Name</b>	Gamlingay Environmental Action Group
<b>Location</b>	Gamlingay, Cambridgeshire, United Kingdom
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>Gamlingay Environmental Action Group (GEAG) exists because its members believe that both the local and global environment is under threat from many directions including climate change, pollution, and inappropriate development. GEAG members believe in taking action to secure a balance between the past, present, and future needs of our community and of the wider world. We believe we should work together towards a world and a village in which the needs of people are met in balance with the needs of the natural environment and in which our natural and communal heritage is passed on intact to future generations.</p>
<b>Objects</b>	<p>To campaign for a more sustainable future for the Gamlingay area and for the world;</p> <p>to raise awareness in the Gamlingay area of local, regional, national, and global environmental issues;</p> <p>to acquire and make accessible information that allows local people and organisations to make informed choices about their environmental impact;</p> <p>to support individuals, organisations, and statutory bodies with an interest in Gamlingay in their work to move towards a sustainable future for Gamlingay and the world;</p> <p>to advise local individuals, organisations, and statutory bodies on a range of local, regional, national, and global environmental issues;</p>

to organise local meetings, events, and campaigns, promoting a sustainable future for Gamlingay and the world, which are open to all with an interest in the village;

to take appropriate action to support these objects.

## **Powers**

In furtherance of the objects, but not otherwise, the Management Committee may exercise the power to:

- (i) Raise funds and to invite and receive contributions;
- (ii) Apply for grants or other sources of revenue from voluntary or statutory grant-making bodies;
- (iii) Buy, rent, or take lease in or exchange any property and maintain and equip it for use and/or buy, rent, or take lease in any services necessary for the achievement of the objects;
- (iv) Subject to any consents required by Law to sell, lease, or dispose of all or any part of the property of the organisation;
- (v) Co-operate with and/or affiliate to voluntary bodies, charities, and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or of similar purposes and exchange information and advice with them;
- (vi) Establish such *ad hoc* working parties as the Management Committee may think fit;
- (vii) Do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

## **Membership**

Membership is open to all with an interest in Gamlingay and its neighbouring areas.

Members shall be defined as those individuals who have made available to the Management Committee an email or a postal address where they can be contacted.

Membership fees, if any, shall be set at the Annual General Meeting.

## **Committee**

The Management Committee shall consist of at least 5 members, at least 3 of whom shall be officers.

Meetings shall be held at least twice a year.

The Committee may only take decisions when at least three members of the Committee, including two officers are present.

All Committee members are elected for a period of one year. All Committee members will retire at the AGM, but may be re-elected. There will be no limit on the number of times a member can be re-elected to the same position on the Committee.

The following officers shall be elected at each AGM

- Co-ordinator
- Treasurer
- Up to five 'Issue Representatives'. These may include, but are not limited to, 'Transport Representative', 'Energy Representative', 'Ecohub Representative', 'Wildlife and Conservation Representative', and 'Planning Representative'..

The Committee shall normally consist of the above officers and a minimum of two and up to a maximum of five other Ordinary Members who shall be elected at the AGM. During the course of the year, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional Members, who may be Ordinary Members or Issue Representatives, to the Committee. Co-opted members of the Committee will be required to stand for election at the subsequent AGM.

Voting at Committee meetings shall be by a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Co-ordinator or an appointed deputy shall decide.

## **Vacancies**

In the event of a vacancy arising on the Management Committee, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt a replacement member to the Committee. Co-opted members of the Committee will be required to stand for election at the subsequent AGM.

**Full-Member Meetings**

The Management Committee shall from time to time call Full-Member Meetings open to all members at which reports shall be heard from officers of the Management Committee and at which GEAG policy shall be deliberated.

Voting at Full-Member Meetings shall be by a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Co-ordinator or an appointed deputy shall decide.

The Management Committee shall be responsible for putting any policy agreed on at Full-Member Meetings into effect.

**Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

An AGM shall be held each year not later than four months after the end of the accounting year which shall be 31 October each year. The Committee shall give not less than 21 days notice of the date fixed for an AGM. Notice is defined as an email or postal message to all members who have made an email or postal address available to the Committee by the date of the previous AGM. A quorum at the AGM shall be 7 members.

The AGM will:

- (i) hear reports of the year's work from the officers of the committee
- (ii) receive the Treasurer's report on the audited accounts for the year
- (iii) hear, discuss, and put to the vote any proposals for amendment of the constitution. Any changes to the constitution will take immediate effect.
- (iv) accept the resignation of the outgoing committee
- (v) elect committee members for the forthcoming year
- (vi) appoint the auditor for the forthcoming year
- (vii) hear any other business of an annual nature, at the discretion of the Co-ordinator.

After item (iii), an acting Co-ordinator will be appointed from the

floor to supervise items (iv) and (v). The Co-ordinator elected in item (v) will resume the chair to supervise items (vi) and (vii).

**Voting at AGM** All members present at the AGM are entitled to vote. Voting shall be by a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Co-ordinator or an appointed deputy shall decide.

**Special General Meeting (SGM)** The Co-ordinator may call a Special General Meeting to resolve a serious problem or if a proposal is made to alter the constitution. 21 days notice must be given prior to a SGM. Notice is defined as an email or postal message to all members who have made an email or postal address available to the Committee by the date of the previous AGM.

A quorum at a SGM shall be 7 members. All members present at an SGM are entitled to vote. Voting shall be by a show of hands. In the event of a tie, the Co-ordinator or an appointed deputy shall decide.

**Amendment** The constitution can be amended with a majority vote at the AGM or at an SGM called for the purpose.

**Assets/  
property/  
effects** These are the responsibility of the Committee at all times who shall see they are maintained in good order

**Income/  
Expenditure** It is the responsibility of the Treasurer and Committee to keep proper accounts which shall be tabled at each AGM. Accounts shall be audited or examined annually by a person who is not a member of the Management Committee. The accounting year shall run from 01 November to 31 October.

**Payments and  
Benefits** Payments may be made to members in respect of expenses incurred in furtherance of the objects and when agreed in advance by the Management Committee and supported by appropriate documentation, such as receipts and/or bank statements.

Payments may also be made to members and non-members in respect of property or services necessary for the achievement of the objects as detailed under "Powers", item (iii), above. Such payments must be agreed by the Management Committee in advance and supported by appropriate documentation, such as

receipts and/or bank statements.

**Dissolution**

GEAG may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members in a majority vote at an AGM or SGM. Funds and other assets remaining shall be distributed to local environmental charities at the Committee's discretion.

**Adoption**

This constitution was adopted *Nem Con* at the Annual General Meeting held on 16 December 2009. The members present were:

Mike Brettle	Brycchan Carey
Peter Condon	Alex Day
Alice Hardiman	Nick Hardiman
Gareth Leech	Steve Poole
Joel Posner	Sarah Sanders

**Amendment**

Amended *Nem Con* at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 January 2012. The members present were:

Chris Barker	Chris Bowden
Brycchan Carey	Peter Condon
Jennifer Docherty	John Hammond
Nick Hardiman	Bridget Mappley
Anna Mercer	John Mercer
John Mossman	Sarah Sanders
Chris Smith	