

D&DBA Constitution and Rules

Name: The Association shall be known as “Dingwall & District Beekeepers’ Association”.

Membership:

Membership of Dingwall & District Beekeepers’ Association shall be open to any person interested in beekeeping upon payment of the annual subscription fee. There are two categories of membership:

Ordinary member, who shall have a current subscription;

Family membership, who shall have a current subscription;

Objects:

The objects of the Association shall be:

To promote and further the craft of beekeeping, particularly in the area constituting Dingwall district, the Black Isle and Wester Ross;

To advance the education of the public in the importance of bees in the environment;

To train and mentor new beekeepers;

To create a forum for the exchange of beekeeping information both within the area and further afield; and

To promote and further the conservation of honeybees and other native pollinators.

Activities:

Lectures or demonstrations at suitable and accessible apiary sites during spring and summer months;

Indoor meetings/lectures during winter months; and

Promotion of beekeeping.

Committee and Office bearers:

The office bearers of the Association shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The President will hold office for a maximum of three years and will not be eligible for reappointment for a further six years.

The Vice President will be given the option of being appointed to the position of President and hold office for a maximum of three years. If the Vice President declines the position of President, the President can be nominated from within the Committee or from the Membership and be approved by the floor at an AGM. The Vice President can be nominated from within the Committee or from the Membership and be approved by the floor at an AGM.

The remaining office bearers shall be held for a period of three years after which the holder is required to stand down. However, if the holder is willing to continue in office they may be nominated for a further term, again not exceeding three years. These office bearers, along with no more than nine further, ordinary members who will be elected at the annual general meeting (AGM) should try to represent different areas that the Association covers geographically and roles within the Committee, will serve a three year term and shall form the Committee of the Association, which shall manage the affairs of the Association.

The Committee shall have full discretionary powers to make or amend bye-laws, providing always they shall in no way contravene a rule made at a general meeting. The Committee shall have the power to appoint a temporary replacement of any office bearer or member of the Committee who has resigned or otherwise left the organisation during the year until the subsequent AGM when the post shall fall vacant. The Committee shall also have full discretionary powers to cancel the membership of any individual or group of individuals whose continued connection with the Association would, in their opinion, be detrimental to

its interests. The Committee shall meet as required. Not less than fourteen days notice shall be given of each meeting and such notice shall be accompanied by an agenda for that meeting. The quorum for a Committee meeting shall be five. The Office Bearers of the Association shall hold the assets and funds of the Association as Trustees for the members of the Association.

Cheques should be signed by one of the following office bearers: Treasurer, President, Vice-president, Secretary or Web Master.

Any payment made, should be communicated by email to the President and the Secretary to ensure appropriate safeguarding. Any expenditure above £100 but below £249.99 should first be agreed with the President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. Any expenditure above £250 should only be approved after a full Committee meeting.

The Secretary and President should receive regular Bank Statements either via email or paper statements to ensure proper practice is adhered to.

Meetings of the Association shall be presided over by the President or, if unavailable, by the Vice-President. If both these office bearers are absent then a Chairman shall be appointed from those members present. In the event of a tied vote at any meeting the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The AGM of Dingwall and District Beekeepers Association shall be held in April, the date, hour and place to be fixed by the Committee.

The Treasurer's financial report and statement of accounts will be presented at the AGM.

The Treasurer shall make the Statements of the Association's Bank Account(s) available at the AGM for the scrutiny of members.

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by the Secretary within twenty-eight days of receipt of a requisition signed by any ten ordinary members. The business which they wish to discuss, shall be stated in such requisition, and shall be quoted in the agenda accompanying the notice summoning such a meeting, which will be to discuss that business only. Not less than fourteen days notice shall be given of any such meeting and such notice shall include an agenda for the proposed meeting.

The quorum for an AGM or EGM shall be one quarter of the membership.

All motions at any meeting shall be voted upon by a show of hands unless a ballot of the members present is demanded by any five members in the room.

Election to any contested Committee post shall be by a show of hands unless a ballot is deemed a more appropriate by the circumstances. If a ballot is carried out, the names of the tellers counting the votes shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Any alteration to the Association rules must have a two-thirds majority of the ordinary members present at the AGM or EGM called for that purpose.

A true and accurate record will be documented and kept of each AGM, EGM and Committee Meeting. This will be proposed and accepted as such at the next such meeting.

Dissolution of the Association:

The Association may be dissolved by at least two-thirds majority of members present casting their votes at an EGM for which the relevant period of notice had been given stating the terms of the proposal to dissolve.

Any assets remaining after the settlement of the Association's debts and liabilities shall be disposed of as decided by a majority vote of those present. This Constitution was amended by the Committee and approved at the AGM 2023.