

# CONSTITUTION

of

## ARKAIG COMMUNITY FOREST

*Final version – Revised 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to be compatible with Scottish Government Community Right to Buy and Asset Transfer legislation*

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## **GENERAL**

### **Type of organisation**

- 1 The organisation will, upon registration, be a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

### **Scottish principal office**

- 2 The principal office of the organisation will be in Scotland (and must remain in Scotland).

### **Name**

- 3 The name of the organisation is "ARKAIG COMMUNITY FOREST"

The organisation has been formed to benefit the Community of Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes as defined by the postcode areas of PH34 4EJ and PH34 4EL ("the Community"), with the Purposes listed in the sub-clauses hereto ("the Purposes"), to be exercised following the principles of sustainable development (where sustainable development means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs),

### **Purposes**

- 4 The organisation's purposes are:
  - 4.1 to support and promote sustainable community development, where 'sustainable development' means development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs;
  - 4.2 to own and manage community land and associated assets for the benefit of the community and the public in general;
  - 4.3 to restore and protect the natural environment of the area, and in particular to restore and enhance the native woodland habitats and other semi-natural habitats and associated flora and fauna of the area;
  - 4.4 to support and enhance the understanding and interpretation of the environment, history, culture and heritage of the area;
  - 4.5 to improve the access, amenity and recreational value of the area;
  - 4.6 to encourage the advancement of land-based education, training, and personal development;
  - 4.7 to promote health and wellbeing.

## **Powers**

The organisation has the power to:

- 5 do anything which is calculated to further its purposes or is conducive or incidental to doing so;
- 6 accept subscriptions, grants, donations, gifts, legacies and endowments of all kinds and to distribute these in accordance with the purposes;
- 7 invest any funds which are not immediately required for the activities of the organisation in any such investments as may be considered appropriate including the acquisition, creation and development of any business and to dispose of, and vary such investments.
- 8 create, acquire or develop appropriate businesses in keeping with the purposes of the organisation
- 9 employ, contract with, train and pay such staff (whether employed or self-employed) as are considered appropriate for the proper conduct of the purposes of the organisation.
- 10 To register an interest in land and to exercise the right to buy land under Part 2 or Part 3A of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and Part 5 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 including any statutory amendment or re-enactment thereof for the time being in force ("**the Land Reform Acts**").

No part of the income or property of the organisation may be paid or transferred (directly or indirectly) to the members - either in the course of the organisation's existence or on dissolution - except where this is done in direct furtherance of the organisation's charitable purposes.

## **Liability of members**

- 11 The members of the organisation have no liability to pay any sums to help to meet the debts (or other liabilities) of the organisation if it is wound up; accordingly, if the organisation is unable to meet its debts, the members will not be held responsible.
- 12 The members and charity trustees have certain legal duties under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; and clause 11 does not exclude (or limit) any personal liabilities they might incur if they are in breach of those duties or in breach of other legal obligations or duties that apply to them personally.

## **General structure**

- 13 The structure of the organisation consists of:-

- 13.1 the MEMBERS - comprising Ordinary Members who have the right to attend members' meetings (including annual general meetings and any EGM) and have important powers under the constitution; in particular, the members appoint people to serve on the board and take decisions on changes to the constitution itself; and the Associate Members.
  - 13.2 the BOARD - who hold regular meetings, and generally control the activities of the organisation; for example, the board is responsible for monitoring and controlling the financial position of the organisation.
- 14 The people serving on the board are referred to in this constitution as CHARITY TRUSTEES.

## **MEMBERS**

**The members of the Organisation shall consist of the Subscribers (being those Ordinary Members who sign the original constitution) and such other persons and organisations as are admitted to membership in terms of this constitution.**

### **Qualifications for membership**

- 15 Ordinary Membership is open to any individual aged 16 years or over who is a) ordinarily resident in Achnacarry, Bunarkaig or Clunes or the wider postcode defined areas of PH34 4EJ and PH34 4EL, b) is entitled to vote at a local government election in a polling district that includes the Community or part of it, and c) supports the Purposes of the organisation; declaring that, if an Ordinary Member ceases to comply with any of these criteria, he or she will be obliged to inform the Company and will thereafter be reclassified as an Associate Member, and that if the Company becomes aware of this itself it will so reclassify the member and notify him or her accordingly.
- 16 Associate Membership is open to those individuals who are not ordinarily resident in the Community and those organisations wherever located that support the Purposes. Associate Members are neither eligible to stand for election to the Board nor to vote at any General Meeting. Each member which is an organisation shall appoint one named Authorised Representative to represent and act for such member at all General Meetings. Any change in the appointment of an Authorised Representative may be made at any time by the appointing member, but only by written notice to the Organisation. Such notice will take effect upon its receipt by the Organisation.
- 17 Employees of the organisation are not eligible for membership.
- 18 The organisation shall have not fewer than 10 members at any time; and

- 19 At least three quarters of the members of the organisation shall be members of the Community; and
- 20 In the event that the number of members falls below 10 or that at least three quarters of the members of the organisation do not consist of members of the Community, the Board may conduct essential business and to ensure the admission of sufficient Ordinary Members to achieve the minimum number and/or take steps to maintain the majority.

### **Application for membership**

- 21 Any person who wishes to become a member must sign a written application for membership
- 22 The board shall promptly approve each application and determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for becoming an Ordinary Member or Associate Member.

### **Membership subscription**

- 23 No membership subscription will be payable.

### **Register of members**

- 24 The board must keep a register of members, setting out
  - 24.1 for each current member:
    - 24.1.1 his/her full name and address; and
    - 24.1.2 the date on which he/she was registered as a member of the organisation;
  - 24.2 for each former member - for at least six years from the date on which he/she ceased to be a member:
    - 24.2.1 his/her name; and
    - 24.2.2 the date on which he/she ceased to be a member.
- 25 The board must ensure that the register of members is updated within 28 days of any change:
  - 25.1 which arises from a resolution of the board or a resolution passed by the members of the organisation; or
  - 25.2 which is notified to the organisation.
- 26 If a member or charity trustee of the organisation requests a copy of the register of members, the board must ensure that a copy is supplied to him/her within 28 days, providing the request is reasonable; if the

request is made by a member (rather than a charity trustee), the board may provide a copy which has the addresses blanked out.

### **Withdrawal from membership**

- 27 Any person who wants to withdraw from membership must give a written notice of withdrawal to the organisation, signed by him/her; he/she will cease to be a member as from the time when the notice is received by the organisation.

### **Transfer of membership**

- 28 Membership of the organisation may not be transferred by a member.

### **Re-registration of members**

- 29 The board may, at any time, issue notices to the members requiring them to confirm that they wish to remain as members of the organisation, and allowing them a period of 28 days (running from the date of issue of the notice) to provide that confirmation to the board.
- 30 If a member fails to provide confirmation to the board (in writing or by e-mail) that he/she wishes to remain as a member of the organisation before the expiry of the 28-day period referred to in clause 29, the board may expel him/her from membership.
- 31 A notice under clause 29 will not be valid unless it refers specifically to the consequences (under clause 30) of failing to provide confirmation within the 28-day period.

### **Expulsion from membership**

- 32 Any person may be expelled from membership by way of a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of those present and voting at a members' meeting, providing the following procedures have been observed:-
- 32.1 at least 21 days' notice of the intention to propose the resolution must be given to the member concerned, specifying the grounds for the proposed expulsion;
- 32.2 the member concerned will be entitled to be heard on the resolution at the members' meeting at which the resolution is proposed.

## **DECISION-MAKING BY THE MEMBERS**

### **Members' meetings**

- 33 The board must arrange a meeting of members (an annual general meeting or "AGM") in each calendar year.
- 34 The gap between one AGM and the next must not be longer than 15 months.
- 35 Notwithstanding clause 33, an AGM does not need to be held during the calendar year in which the organisation is formed; but the first AGM must still be held within 15 months of the date on which the organisation is formed.
- 36 The business of each AGM must include:-
- 36.1 a report by the chair on the activities of the organisation;
  - 36.2 presentation of the annual accounts of the organisation;
  - 36.3 the election/re-election of charity trustees, as referred to in clauses 70 to 73.
- 37 The board may arrange a special members' meeting at any time.

#### **Power to request the board to arrange a special members' meeting**

- 38 The board must arrange a special members' meeting if they are requested to do so by a notice (which may take the form of two or more documents in the same terms, each signed by one or more members) by members who amount to 5% or more of the total membership of the organisation at the time, providing:
- 38.1 the notice states the purposes for which the meeting is to be held; and
  - 38.2 those purposes are not inconsistent with the terms of this constitution, the Charities and Trustee (Investment) Scotland Act 2005 or any other statutory provision.
- 39 If the board receive a notice under clause 38, the date for the meeting which they arrange in accordance with the notice must not be later than 28 days from the date on which they received the notice.

#### **Notice of members' meetings**

- 40 At least 14 clear days' notice must be given of any AGM or any special members' meeting.
- 41 The notice calling a members' meeting must specify in general terms what business is to be dealt with at the meeting; and

- 41.1 in the case of a resolution to alter the constitution, must set out the exact terms of the proposed alteration(s); or
- 41.2 in the case of any other resolution falling within clause 52 (requirement for two-thirds majority) must set out the exact terms of the resolution.
- 42 The reference to “clear days” in clause 40 shall be taken to mean that, in calculating the period of notice,
  - 42.1 the day after the notices are posted (or sent by e-mail) should be excluded; and
  - 42.2 the day of the meeting itself should also be excluded.
- 43 Notice of every members' meeting must be given to all the members of the organisation, and to all the charity trustees; but the accidental omission to give notice to one or more members will not invalidate the proceedings at the meeting.
- 44 Any notice which requires to be given to a member under this constitution must be: -
  - 44.1 sent by post to the member, at the address last notified by him/her to the organisation; *or*
  - 44.2 sent by e-mail to the member, at the e-mail address last notified by him/her to the organisation.

### **Procedure at members' meetings**

- 45 No valid decisions can be taken at any members' meeting unless a quorum is present.
- 46 The quorum for a members' meeting is 5 Ordinary Members or 30% of the membership whichever is the least, present in person.
- 47 If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes after the time at which a members' meeting was due to start - or if a quorum ceases to be present during a members' meeting - the meeting cannot proceed; and fresh notices of meeting will require to be sent out, to deal with the business (or remaining business) which was intended to be conducted.
- 48 The chair of the organisation should act as chairperson of each members' meeting.
- 49 If the chair of the organisation is not present within 15 minutes after the time at which the meeting was due to start (or is not willing to act as chairperson), the charity trustees present at the meeting must elect (from among themselves) the person who will act as chairperson of that meeting.

## **Voting at members' meetings**

- 50 Every Ordinary member has one vote, which must be given personally.
- 51 All decisions at members' meetings will be made by majority vote - with the exception of the types of resolution listed in clause 52.
- 52 The following resolutions will be valid only if passed by not less than two thirds of those voting on the resolution at a members' meeting (or if passed by way of a written resolution under clause 56):
- 52.1 a resolution amending the constitution;
  - 52.2 a resolution expelling a person from membership under article 32;
  - 52.3 a resolution directing the board to take any particular step (or directing the board not to take any particular step);
  - 52.4 a resolution approving the amalgamation of the organisation with another SCIO (or approving the constitution of the new SCIO to be constituted as the successor pursuant to that amalgamation);
  - 52.5 a resolution to the effect that all of the organisation's property, rights and liabilities should be transferred to another SCIO (or agreeing to the transfer from another SCIO of all of its property, rights and liabilities);
  - 52.6 a resolution for the winding up or dissolution of the organisation.
- 53 If there is an equal number of votes for and against any resolution, the chairperson of the meeting will be entitled to a second (casting) vote.
- 54 A resolution put to the vote at a members' meeting will be decided on a show of hands - unless the chairperson (or at least two other members present at the meeting) ask for a secret ballot.
- 55 The chairperson will decide how any secret ballot is to be conducted, and he/she will declare the result of the ballot at the meeting.

## **Written resolutions by members**

- 56 A resolution agreed to in writing (or by e-mail) by a majority of or two thirds of the membership in line with clause 52 will be as valid as if it had been passed at a members' meeting; the date of the resolution will be taken to be the date on which the last member agreed to it.

## **Minutes**

- 57 The board must ensure that proper minutes are kept in relation to all members' meetings.

- 58 Minutes of members' meetings must include the names of those present; and (so far as possible) should be signed by the chairperson of the meeting.
- 59 The board shall make available copies of the minutes referred to in clause 57 to any member of the public requesting them; but on the basis that the board may exclude confidential material to the extent permitted under clause 107.

## **BOARD**

### **Number of charity trustees**

- 60 The maximum number of charity trustees is 12.
- 61 The minimum number of charity trustees is 3.

### **Eligibility**

- 62 From and after the first General Meeting of the organisation, the Board shall comprise the following individual persons (a majority of whom shall always be Elected Charity Trustees), namely:
- 62.1 up to 10 individual persons elected as Charity Trustees by the Ordinary Members in terms of Clauses 70-73 ("the Elected Charity Trustees"), who must themselves be Ordinary Members;
- 62.2 up to 2 individual persons co-opted in terms of Clauses 65-69 ("the Co-opted Charity Trustees"), so as to ensure a spread of skills and experience within the Board;
- 63 A person will not be eligible for election or appointment to the board if he/she is: -
- 63.1 disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; or
- 63.2 an employee of the organisation.

### **Initial charity trustees**

- 64 The individuals who signed the charity trustee declaration forms which accompanied the application for incorporation of the organisation shall be deemed to have been appointed by the members as charity trustees with effect from the date of incorporation of the organisation.

### **Co-Opted Charity Trustees**

- 65 Subject to Clause 62.2, up to 2 individual/individuals may be co-opted from time to time by the Board of Trustees itself, as follows:
- 66 subject to Clause 68, a Co-opted Charity Trustee shall serve until the next AGM after his or her co-option;
- 67 a Co-opted Charity Trustee can be re-co-opted at such next AGM;
- 68 a Co-opted Charity Trustee can be removed from office at any time by a simple majority of the Board; and
- 69 for the avoidance of doubt, a Co-opted Charity Trustee may participate fully in all Board meetings which they attend, and is eligible to vote at them.

### **Election, retirement, re-election**

- 70 At each AGM, the members may elect any member (unless he/she is debarred from membership under clause 63) to be a charity trustee.
- 71 The board may at any time appoint any Ordinary member (unless he/she is debarred from membership under clause 63) to be a charity trustee, provided that he/she fits the criteria for eligibility.
- 72 At each AGM, one third of the charity trustees must retire from office - but may then be re-elected under clause 70.
- 73 A charity trustee retiring at an AGM will be deemed to have been re-elected unless: -
  - 73.1 he/she advises the board prior to the conclusion of the AGM that he/she does not wish to be re-appointed as a charity trustee; or
  - 73.2 an election process was held at the AGM and he/she was not among those elected/re-elected through that process; or
  - 73.3 a resolution for the re-election of that charity trustee was put to the AGM and was not carried.

### **Termination of office**

- 74 A charity trustee will automatically cease to hold office if: -
  - 74.1 he/she becomes disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005;
  - 74.2 he/she becomes incapable for medical reasons of carrying out his/her duties as a charity trustee - but only if that has continued (or is expected to continue) for a period of more than six months;

- 74.3 he/she ceases to be a member of the organisation;
  - 74.4 he/she becomes an employee of the organisation;
  - 74.5 he/she gives the organisation a notice of resignation, signed by him/her;
  - 74.6 he/she is absent (without good reason, in the opinion of the board) from more than three consecutive meetings of the board - but only if the board resolves to remove him/her from office;
  - 74.7 he/she is removed from office by resolution of the board on the grounds that he/she is considered to have committed a material breach of the code of conduct for charity trustees (as referred to in clause 91);
  - 74.8 he/she is removed from office by resolution of the board on the grounds that he/she is considered to have been in serious or persistent breach of his/her duties under section 66(1) or (2) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; or
  - 74.9 he/she is removed from office by a resolution of the members passed at a members' meeting.
- 75 A resolution under paragraph 74.7, 74.8 or 74.9 shall be valid only if: -
- 75.1 the charity trustee who is the subject of the resolution is given reasonable prior written notice of the grounds upon which the resolution for his/her removal is to be proposed;
  - 75.2 the charity trustee concerned is given the opportunity to address the meeting at which the resolution is proposed, prior to the resolution being put to the vote; and
  - 75.3 (in the case of a resolution under paragraph 74.7 or 74.8) at least two thirds (to the nearest round number) of the charity trustees then in office vote in favour of the resolution.

### **Register of charity trustees**

- 76 The board must keep a register of charity trustees, setting out
- 76.1 for each current charity trustee:
    - 76.1.1 his/her full name and address;
    - 76.1.2 the date on which he/she was appointed as a charity trustee; and
    - 76.1.3 any office held by him/her in the organisation;

- 76.2 for each former charity trustee - for at least 6 years from the date on which he/she ceased to be a charity trustee:
  - 76.2.1 the name of the charity trustee;
  - 76.2.2 any office held by him/her in the organisation; and
  - 76.2.3 the date on which he/she ceased to be a charity trustee.
- 77 The board must ensure that the register of charity trustees is updated within 28 days of any change:
  - 77.1 which arises from a resolution of the board or a resolution passed by the members of the organisation; or
  - 77.2 which is notified to the organisation.
- 78 If any person requests a copy of the register of charity trustees, the board must ensure that a copy is supplied to him/her within 28 days, providing the request is reasonable; if the request is made by a person who is not a charity trustee of the organisation, the board may provide a copy which has the addresses blanked out - if the SCIO is satisfied that including that information is likely to jeopardise the safety or security of any person or premises.

### **Office-bearers**

- 79 The charity trustees must elect (from among themselves) a chairperson (who must be an Ordinary Member), a treasurer and a secretary
- 80 In addition to the office-bearers required under clause 79, the charity trustees may elect (from among themselves) further office-bearers if they consider that appropriate.
- 81 All of the office-bearers will cease to hold office at the conclusion of each AGM, but may then be re-elected under clause 70 or 71.
- 82 A person elected to any office will automatically cease to hold that office: -
  - 82.1 if he/she ceases to be a charity trustee; *or*
  - 82.2 if he/she gives to the organisation a notice of resignation from that office, signed by him/her.

### **Powers of board**

- 83 Except where this constitution states otherwise, the organisation (and its assets and operations) will be managed by the board; and the board may exercise all the powers of the organisation.

- 84 A meeting of the board at which a quorum is present may exercise all powers exercisable by the board.
- 85 The members may, by way of a resolution passed in compliance with clause 52 (requirement for two-thirds majority), direct the board to take any particular step or direct the board not to take any particular step; and the board shall give effect to any such direction accordingly.

### **Charity trustees - general duties**

- 86 Each of the charity trustees has a duty, in exercising functions as a charity trustee, to act in the interests of the organisation; and, in particular, must:-
- 86.1 seek, in good faith, to ensure that the organisation acts in a manner which is in accordance with its purposes;
  - 86.2 act with the care and diligence which it is reasonable to expect of a person who is managing the affairs of another person;
  - 86.3 in circumstances giving rise to the possibility of a conflict of interest between the organisation and any other party:
    - 86.3.1 put the interests of the organisation before that of the other party;
    - 86.3.2 where any other duty prevents him/her from doing so, disclose the conflicting interest to the organisation and refrain from participating in any deliberation or decision of the other charity trustees with regard to the matter in question;
  - 86.4 ensure that the organisation complies with any direction, requirement, notice or duty imposed under or by virtue of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.
- 87 In addition to the duties outlined in clause 86, all of the charity trustees must take such steps as are reasonably practicable for the purpose of ensuring: -
- 87.1 that any breach of any of those duties by a charity trustee is corrected by the charity trustee concerned and not repeated; and
  - 87.2 that any trustee who has been in serious and persistent breach of those duties is removed as a trustee.
- 88 Provided he/she has declared his/her interest - and has not voted on the question of whether or not the organisation should enter into the arrangement - a charity trustee will not be debarred from entering into

an arrangement with the organisation in which he/she has a personal interest; and (subject to clause 86.3 and to the provisions relating to remuneration for services contained in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005), he/she may retain any personal benefit which arises from that arrangement.

- 89 No charity trustee may serve as an employee (full time or part time) of the organisation; and no charity trustee may be given any remuneration by the organisation for carrying out his/her duties as a charity trustee.
- 90 The charity trustees may be paid all travelling and other expenses reasonably incurred by them in connection with carrying out their duties; this may include expenses relating to their attendance at meetings.

### **Code of conduct for charity trustees**

- 91 Each of the charity trustees shall comply with the code of conduct (incorporating detailed rules on conflict of interest) prescribed by the board from time to time.
- 92 The code of conduct referred to in clause 91 shall be supplemental to the provisions relating to the conduct of charity trustees contained in this constitution and the duties imposed on charity trustees under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; and all relevant provisions of this constitution shall be interpreted and applied in accordance with the provisions of the code of conduct in force from time to time

## **DECISION-MAKING BY THE CHARITY TRUSTEES**

### **Notice of board meetings**

- 93 Any charity trustee may call a meeting of the board *or* ask the secretary to call a meeting of the board.
- 94 At least 7 days' notice must be given of each board meeting, unless (in the opinion of the person calling the meeting) there is a degree of urgency which makes that inappropriate. Notice of board meetings may be communicated to board members electronically.

### **Procedure at board meetings**

- 95 No valid decisions can be taken at a board meeting unless a quorum is present; the quorum for board meetings is 3 charity trustees, present in person and provided that the Elected Charity Trustees are always in the majority at any Board meeting. No business shall be dealt with at a Board meeting unless such a quorum is present.

- 96 If at any time the number of charity trustees in office falls below the number stated as the quorum in clause 95, the remaining charity trustee(s) will have power to fill the vacancies or call a members' meeting - but will not be able to take any other valid decisions.
- 97 The chair of the organisation should act as chairperson of each board meeting.
- 98 If the chair is not present within 15 minutes after the time at which the meeting was due to start (or is not willing to act as chairperson), the charity trustees present at the meeting must elect (from among themselves) the person who will act as chairperson of that meeting.
- 99 Every charity trustee has one vote, which must be given personally.
- 100 All decisions at board meetings will be made by majority vote.
- 101 If there is an equal number of votes for and against any resolution, the chairperson of the meeting will be entitled to a second (casting) vote.
- 102 The board may, at its discretion, allow any person to attend and speak at a board meeting notwithstanding that he/she is not a charity trustee - but on the basis that he/she must not participate in decision-making.
- 103 A charity trustee must not vote at a board meeting (or at a meeting of a sub-committee) on any resolution which relates to a matter in which he/she has a personal interest or duty which conflicts (or may conflict) with the interests of the organisation; he/she must withdraw from the meeting while an item of that nature is being dealt with.
- 104 For the purposes of clause 103: -
- 104.1 an interest held by an individual who is "connected" with the charity trustee under section 68(2) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (husband/wife, partner, child, parent, brother/sister etc) shall be deemed to be held by that charity trustee;
- 104.2 a charity trustee will be deemed to have a personal interest in relation to a particular matter if a body in relation to which he/she is an employee, director, member of the management committee, officer or elected representative has an interest in that matter.

## **Minutes**

- 105 The board must ensure that proper minutes are kept in relation to all board meetings and meetings of sub-committees.
- 106 The minutes to be kept under clause 105 must include the names of those present; and (so far as possible) should be signed by the chairperson of the meeting.

- 107 *The organisation, upon request of any person for a copy of any minutes must, if the request is reasonable, give the person within 28 days of the request a copy of the requested minutes*

*Where such a request is received the organisation:*

*(a) may withhold information contained in the minutes and*

*(b) if it does so, must inform the person requesting a copy of the minutes of its reason for doing so.*

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **Delegation to sub-committees**

- 108 The board may delegate any of their powers to sub-committees; a sub-committee must include at least one charity trustee, but other members of a sub-committee need not be charity trustees.
- 109 The board may also delegate to the chair of the organisation (or the holder of any other post) such of their powers as they may consider appropriate.
- 110 When delegating powers under clause 108 or 109, the board must set out appropriate conditions (which must include an obligation to report regularly to the board).
- 111 Any delegation of powers under clause 108 or 109 may be revoked or altered by the board at any time.
- 112 The rules of procedure for each sub-committee, and the provisions relating to membership of each sub-committee, shall be set by the board.

### **Operation of accounts**

- 113 Subject to clause 114, the signatures of two out of three signatories appointed by the board will be required in relation to all operations (other than the lodging of funds) on the bank and building society accounts held by the organisation; at least one out of the two signatures must be the signature of a charity trustee.
- 114 Where the organisation uses electronic facilities for the operation of any bank or building society account, the authorisations required for operations on that account must be consistent with the approach reflected in clause 113.

### **Accounting records and annual accounts**

- 115 The board must ensure that proper accounting records are kept, in accordance with all applicable statutory requirements.
- 116 The board must prepare annual accounts, complying with all relevant statutory requirements; if an audit is required under any statutory provisions (or if the board consider that an audit would be appropriate for some other reason), the board should ensure that an audit of the accounts is carried out by a qualified auditor. In the event that an audit is not required, the board will arrange for independent examination of the accounts.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **Winding-up**

- 117 If the organisation is to be wound up or dissolved, the winding-up or dissolution process will be carried out in accordance with the procedures set out under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. The income and property of the organisation shall be applied solely towards promoting the Purposes and do not belong to the members. Any surplus income or assets of the organisation are to be applied for the benefit of the Community.
- 118 The winding-up of the Organisation may take place only on the decision of not less than two thirds of its Ordinary Members who are present and voting at a General Meeting called specifically (but not necessarily exclusively) for the purpose.
- 119 If, on the winding-up of the Organisation, any property or assets remains, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, such property (including any land acquired by it in terms of the Land Reform Act) shall be given or transferred to such other Community body or bodies or charitable group as may be:
  - (a) determined by not less than two thirds of the Ordinary Members of the organisation who are present and voting at a General Meeting called specifically (but not necessarily exclusively) for the purpose; and
  - (b) ensuring such assets are transferred to another body which has purposes which resemble closely the purposes of the organisation
  - (c) approved by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (and its successors);

And during wind-up notify the Scottish Ministers, through the Scottish Government Rural Directorate (or its successors).

## **Alterations to the constitution**

- 120 This constitution may (subject to clause 121) be altered by resolution of the members passed at a members' meeting (subject to achieving the two thirds majority referred to in clause 52) or by way of a written resolution of the members.
- 121 The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 prohibits taking certain steps (e.g. change of name, an alteration to the purposes, amalgamation, winding-up) without the consent of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

## **Interpretation**

- 122 References in this constitution to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 should be taken to include: -
  - 122.1 any statutory provision which adds to, modifies or replaces that Act; and
  - 122.2 any statutory instrument issued in pursuance of that Act or in pursuance of any statutory provision falling under paragraph 122.1 above.
- 123 In this constitution: -
  - 123.1 "charity" means a body which is either a "Scottish charity" within the meaning of section 13 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or a "charity" within the meaning of section 1 of the Charities Act 2006, providing (in either case) that its objects are limited to charitable purposes;
  - 123.2 "charitable purpose" means a charitable purpose under section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 which is also regarded as a charitable purpose in relation to the application of the Taxes Acts.