

# Herefordshire Green Network - Constitution

## 1) NAME

The name of the group shall be "**Herefordshire Green Network**". Previously known as the Herefordshire in Transition Alliance our name was changed by unanimous vote at a special meeting on 25th January 2016.

## 2) OBJECTS

The aim of Herefordshire Green Network shall be to foster partnerships and joint efforts to strengthen the future sustainability of the community within but not restricted to Herefordshire and to enhance its environmental and social resilience. Herefordshire Green Network recognises that creative responses to the challenges of climate change and resource depletion (Peak Oil etc) provide opportunities for creating better ways of life and that people coming together to share their concerns, ideas and efforts is a positive way to affect change.

The objects of Herefordshire Green Network shall be:

- i) To encourage creative responses to the challenges of climate change and resource depletion which provide opportunities for making better ways of life, locally and globally.
- ii) To identify and share information about, and raise awareness of, issues which provide us with opportunities for positive ways to affect change.
- iii) To provide educational and other resources that will inform and encourage individuals and organisations to improve their resilience.
- iv) To promote, encourage and support individuals and organisations undertaking activities that progress towards a more sustainable way of life.
- v) To identify and support individuals and organisations who will be especially vulnerable.

## 3) POWERS

In furtherance of these objects Herefordshire Green Network may exercise powers to:

- (i) Promote Transition in Herefordshire to everyone with due respect to age, sex, ethnicity, ability, religion or political views.
- (ii) Invite and receive contributions and raise funds to finance its activities.
- (iii) Receive contributions through a membership fee.
- (iv) Rent or buy equipment/premises.
- (v) Publicise and promote the work of HiT and organise meetings, courses and events.
- (vi) Work in partnership with other organisations with similar objects.
- (vii) Employ staff and utilize volunteers.
- (viii) Take any form of action that is lawful and necessary to achieve the objects of HiT.

#### **4) MEMBERSHIP**

- (i) Membership shall be open to anyone who has an interest in assisting Herefordshire Green Network to achieve its aims and is willing to support its objectives.
- (ii) Where it is considered membership would be detrimental to its aims and activities Herefordshire Green Network reserves the right to refuse membership, or may terminate or suspend the membership of any member by resolution passed at a meeting. Members shall have the right to appeal via an independent adjudicator determined by mutual agreement.
- (iii) Any member of the alliance may resign their membership by providing the Secretary with written notice.

#### **5) GOVERNANCE**

Herefordshire Green Network members attending a properly constituted meeting (see below) constitute its governing body provided that no less than five members are present and members are at least 18 years of age. Whilst each meeting may elect a Chairperson to chair the meeting, Herefordshire Green Network shall appoint a Treasurer and Secretary on an annual basis, together with signatories to any bank account opened in its name. At least two designated persons must sign any cheques or authorize financial transactions undertaken on its behalf.

#### **6) MEETINGS**

- (i) Herefordshire Green Network shall meet at least four times a year to enable discussion, monitor progress and consider future developments.
- (ii) Members must be given at least 14 days notice of when meetings are to take place unless deemed an emergency situation.
- (iii) It shall be the responsibility of each meeting to elect a Chairperson. Minutes must be taken and made available to members and interested parties.
- (iv) An Annual General Meeting shall take place no later than three months after the end of the financial year.
- (v) All members are entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis and in the case of a tied vote the Chairperson elected for the meeting shall have the casting vote.

#### **7) FINANCE**

- (i) Any money acquired by Herefordshire Green Network, including donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into a named account operated solely on its behalf and all funds must be applied to the objects of Herefordshire Green Network and for no other purpose.
- (ii) Any cheques etc. shall be signed by at least two of the designated signatories to the account.
- (iii) Financial oversight shall be the responsibility of the Treasurer who will ensure funds are utilised effectively and that Herefordshire Green Network stays within budget. Accounts shall be maintained and financial reports shall be a standing item on Herefordshire Green Network agendas. Accounts shall be subject to annual examination by an independent person. An annual financial report shall be presented at the AGM.
- (iv) Herefordshire Green Network's accounting year shall run from 1st April to 31st March.

## 8) ALTERATION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Any changes to the constitution must be agreed by a majority vote at an AGM or at a special meeting provided that 28 days notice of any proposed changes have been given.

## 9) DISSOLUTION

Herefordshire Green Network may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members in a majority vote at an AGM or at a special meeting provided that 28 days notice of the proposed dissolution have been given. Any assets or remaining funds after debts have been paid shall be returned to their providers or transferred to local charities or similar groups.

This constitution was adopted on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013

By the following members of Herefordshire in Transition Alliance:

Ronald Cotterill - Kington local Environment & Energy Network  
Suzanne Pochter - Mandarika Cohousing Ltd.  
John Oubridge (JOHN OUBRIDGE) - Archenfield Community Transition  
Jane Straker - Fossehope Carbon Reduction Action Group  
R.A.C. COATES (R.A.C. COATES) - Colwall Greener  
Kate Astrow - Herefordshire New Leaf  
Ann Ashley - Transition Hereford  
Charlotte Lake - Transition Hereford  
Gillian Monzies - 'We Love Our Bus' Campaign; The Women's Centre  
Nicholas Sandford - Bulmer Foundation / Arrowsdale Environment Group.  
Nikhil Sh. - HITA REconomy Group.