

Constitution of the CUMBRIA AMENITY TRUST MINING HISTORY SOCIETY

1. The Society shall be called the Cumbria Amenity Trust Mining History Society hereinafter called “The Society”.

2. The objects for which the Society is established are: -

A) To explore, research, maintain access to and preserve for the benefit of our cultural and industrial heritage those historic industrial and architectural remains as may exist in the County of Cumbria, and elsewhere, in the form of mining and quarrying remains and related industrial workings, both above and below ground.

B) To advance the education of the public concerning the industrial history of Cumbria, and elsewhere, in particular the history of mining and quarrying, along with the associated archaeology, mineralogy and geology.

In furtherance of these objects, but no further or otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers: -

a) To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person, or persons, whatsoever by way of subscription, and otherwise, provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objects.

b) To buy or otherwise, acquire buildings, or land, or any estate therein, to repair, renovate, restore, rebuild and generally promote the preservation of such land and buildings along with any other structures, buildings or land of which the repair, renovation, restoration, rebuilding or preservation falls within the objects of the Society.

c) By publishing books or pamphlets or in any other appropriate manner to make known to the public the existence of buildings and constructions of particular historical, cultural or constructional interest, with the emphasis on mining and extractive industries.

d) Generally to do any lawful things necessary for the attainment of the Societies objects.

3. Applications for membership of the Society are invited from any person or organisation in sympathy with the objects of the Society. The Society welcomes diverse membership and is committed to taking all reasonable steps to ensure participation for all, irrespective of race, ethnic origin or nationality; age; gender or sexuality; disability or physical fitness. It endeavours to offer equal access to all its activities, subject solely to considerations of safety. The Society has three classes of membership: -

(1) **Basic** conferring voting rights and the right to receive appropriate publications.

(2) **Surface** as Basic with the additional right to attend surface meets.

(3) **Underground** as Basic with the additional right to attend all meets.

Surface and Underground Members must have appropriate Public Liability Insurance cover as determined by the Committee. Membership applications shall be accompanied by the appropriate subscription, the amount of which shall be determined by the AGM

of the Society. In the case of applications for membership from persons under the age of 18 years, the consent of the parent or guardian should be obtained, such persons are only eligible for Basic membership and members under the age of 18 should note that they are not entitled to a vote in the event of any ballot concerning the affairs of the Society that may arise from time to time.

The Committee reserves the right to refuse an application without giving a reason. All persons or organisations who are members of the Society shall guard against committing any act likely to bring the Society into disrepute.

Individuals wishing to participate in field meets may attend a single field meet prior to becoming a member of the Society; in order to do so they must be sponsored by a member (with membership appropriate to the category of the meet). The full name and address of the individual or individuals involved must be passed to the Chairman/Treasurer at least twenty four hours before the meet commences.

Membership may be taken out on the day of a meet upon payment of the annual subscription. An application form may be completed subsequently.

4. Membership of the Society shall cease, by a resolution of the Committee to expel a member, providing that member shall have the right to appeal at the next AGM. A member may be expelled if he/she acts in breach of the Constitution of the Society, or is guilty of conduct contrary to the interests of the Society, or its stated aims and objects. No person shall enter into any correspondence using the name of the Society without having obtained the approval of the committee.

Any information learned during the course of any meeting of the Society should be regarded as confidential, and should not be used for any personal gain without prior consent of the committee.

5. The management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in a committee which shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary who shall serve as Officers, together with 5 other members, the committee having the power to co-opt additional members as required, up to a maximum of 6. The maximum number of Committee members shall be 15. The Committee members are the “Trustees” of the Society. The Committee may allot specific duties to any member or officer, irrespective of whether they are members of the Committee or not. Each Committee member shall have one vote, and the Chairman shall have, in event of an equality of votes, a casting vote. The quorum for a committee meeting shall be 5, any 2 of which must be officers of the Committee. The Committee shall meet not less than 6 times per year. Non-committee members shall be admitted to a Committee meeting only with prior consent of the Chairman and at the Chairman’s discretion, the members may be given permission to address the meeting.

The Secretary shall keep minutes, records of voting, and other items. The minutes of the meetings of the Committee shall be distributed to the members of the Society.

The Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter that may arise which is not covered by this Constitution.

6. The Treasurer shall keep proper books of account, and shall make these available for consultation at all times. An annual balance sheet shall be prepared by the Treasurer, and after auditing, shall be submitted to the AGM. The financial year of the Society shall run from 1st November to 31st October the following year. The Society shall maintain its bank and building society accounts in the name of the Society. All cheques and withdrawals on the account shall be signed by two officers of the Committee, one of who shall be the Treasurer. No other member shall incur the

Society in any expense without prior consent of the Committee, although, in exceptional circumstances, expenses may subsequently be approved.

7. The Annual General Meeting shall be held within the four months following the end of the Society's financial year, at which the officers of the Committee and ordinary Committee members shall be elected for the following 12 months. Nominations of members for election to the Committee shall be given in writing to the Secretary before the AGM, along with the names of the proposer and seconder. The officers of the Committee shall submit to the AGM for approval, reports of their activities on behalf of the Society.

A quorum at an AGM, Special General Meeting or an Extra-Ordinary General Meeting shall be 15% of the total membership as it stands at the close of the previous year. Each member shall have one vote and the Chairman shall have, in the event of an equality of votes, a casting vote.

The Secretary shall give 21 days notice in writing of the AGM or a Special General Meeting to all members; this notice shall include the Agenda for the meeting.

8. An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of the Society may be called by 6 members of the Society; at least 28 days notice of the proposed meeting shall be given in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary shall give 21 days notice in writing of such a meeting to all members; this notice shall include the agenda for the Meeting. An Extra-Ordinary Meeting shall have the same powers as an AGM or Special General Meeting.

9. Any proposed alterations to this Constitution must be considered and agreed by the Committee and additionally in the case of proposed alterations to clauses 2(Objects), 7(The Annual General Meeting), 9(Any proposed alterations to this Constitution) and 10(Dissolution) the written approval of the Charity Commission must be obtained before the proposed alterations are submitted to the AGM or a Special General Meeting. No alterations to this Constitution shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Society to cease to be a charity at law. Any alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of not less than two thirds of the membership of the Society present and voting at the AGM or Special General Meeting.

10. If the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society, the Committee shall call a Special General Meeting. If such a decision should be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at such a meeting, the Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the Committee may determine and if and in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

11. The title of all real and personal property which may be acquired by or on behalf of the Society shall be invested in a corporation lawfully entitled to act as Custodial Trustee or in not less than three members of the society appointed to be Trustees at the AGM of the Society.