

# TeesdaleArtNet

## CONSTITUTION

### 1 NAME

The name of the organisation shall be **TeesdaleArtNet** hereinafter called the Organisation.

### 2 AIMS

**The aims of the Organisation shall be to:**

- Support artists living or working in Teesdale through joint working, exhibitions and training/professional development opportunities.
- Encourage and enable artists to work for the benefit of their community.
- Encourage and support exhibitions performances and arts events in the area.
- Develop audiences for the work of local artists amongst the local community, regionally and nationally.

### 3 OBJECTIVES

**These aims will be achieved by:**

- Nurturing, inspiring and encouraging artists throughout Teesdale within a spirit of friendly co-operation.
- A Showpiece annual exhibition.
- Organising Open Studios events.
- Providing opportunities for other shared exhibitions and marketing.
- Liaising with the local authority, other arts organisations, and the voluntary and community sector to ensure appropriate provision relevant and beneficial to local artists.
- Providing the impetus for innovative and imaginative arts projects.
- Ensuring that a high quality of artwork is produced.

### 4 COMMITTEE

- a. The affairs of the Organisation shall be conducted by the Committee comprising the members as at the Special General Meeting held on 1st October 2017 (Appendix 1) and thereafter duly elected on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting.
- b. The officers shall be a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer duly elected on an annual basis at the Annual General Meeting. These officers will call all meetings with at least seven days notice. Retiring officers and members are eligible for re-election.

- c. The Committee shall have full general powers to carry out the objectives of the Organisation and, in particular, shall have power to: -
- Appoint named individuals and pay them reasonable remuneration, as agreed by the organisation, for specified tasks.
  - Co-opt other persons to serve on the Committee as and when considered necessary.
  - Selection and Curation of Annual exhibition.
  - Appoint sub-committees as deemed necessary and prescribe their functions i.e. Localised exhibitions and Workshops.
  - Raise funds, and to invite and receive contributions.
  - Make such payments as shall be necessary.
  - Co-operate with others operating in the furtherance of the objects or similar purposes.

## **5 MEETINGS**

- a. The Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be deemed necessary. Five members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- b. Voting at all meetings will be by a simple majority of members present, with the Chairman holding a casting vote in the case of a tie.
- c. The Secretary will give seven days notice of meetings to all Committee members and record all meetings in the Organisation minute book.
- d. An Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held in October each year or as soon as practicable thereafter at which minutes will be taken which will form the Annual Report and will be circulated to all members. Accounts for the preceding year shall be presented and agreed.
- e. A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be called at any time at the request of the Committee or one quarter of the members.
- f. The Secretary or Chairperson shall notify the date, time and location of each AGM and any SGM, with an agenda to be discussed, at least 7 days before the date of the meeting. The Committee shall call a SGM within 2 months of being requested to do so.
- g. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be 30% of the members. If fewer attend another meeting must be called.
- h. Every member in attendance shall have one vote in relation to decision making at any General Meeting.

## **6 FINANCES**

- a. The bank account In the name of the Organisation is held at NatWest Bank, Horsemarket, Barnard Castle.
- b. All cheques drawn on the account shall be signed by both authorised signatories.

- c. The Treasurer shall keep records of monies received and payments made and shall present accounts at Committee Meetings if requested as well as presenting the accounts to the AGM.
- d. All funds shall be used only to further the objectives of the Organisation.

## **7. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

This constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the membership present and voting at a General Meeting.

## **8. MEMBERSHIP/PARTICIPATION**

Membership of the Organisation will be open to any artist over the age of 18 years, interested in furthering the Organisation's objects, who lives or works within the defined boundaries of Teesdale, County Durham, and who has paid the annual subscription, amount to be agreed annually at the AGM.

Participation in events and activities held by the Organisation will be subject to specific selection procedures by a sub-committee formed to curate that particular event or activity, and on payment of a financial contribution that has been agreed by the sub-committee.

All members will, at all times, observe professional standards in their dealings with one another, the general public and fellow professionals with whom the organisation has dealings. This includes demonstrating professional respect and courtesy in all face to face, verbal or written communications and avoiding any other behaviour which may be deemed to bring the organisation into disrepute.

## **9. COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

Any behaviour that is deemed unacceptable and against the co-operative nature of the organisation, in that it does not observe the standards outlined in point 8 above, can be addressed by a member making a formal complaint about a named member to the Committee.

Anonymous complaints cannot be addressed by the Committee.

If the Committee receives a formal complaint in relation to the conduct of any named member of the organisation, then the Committee must meet to consider these complaints at the earliest opportunity, at the latest within

one month of receipt of the complaint. Having met, the Committee has three formal means of dealing with the complaint:

1. The Committee may, by majority vote and for good reason, terminate the membership of any individual.
2. The Committee may, by majority vote and for good reason, issue a written warning to remain in place for a period of 12 months.
3. The Committee may, by majority vote and for good reason, conclude that there is no case to answer and take no action.

The committee will at all times act in the best interests of the group.

The Committee's decision will be notified in writing to all relevant parties within 7 days. The Committee's decision will be final.

## **10. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

The Organisation is an equal opportunities organisation and is committed to providing and supporting art activities irrespective of gender, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

## **11. DISSOLUTION**

If the majority of members decide that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Organisation, the Committee shall realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Organisation.

Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other organisations or charitable institutions having objectives similar to the objectives of the Organisation as the members of the Management Committee may determine or, failing that, shall be applied for some other charitable purpose.

## **12. ADOPTION**

This Constitution was formally adopted at the SGM held on 1 October 2017.

Signed by Chair (elected at General Meeting on 26 January 2018)

Chair..... Secretary .....

Date:

