

# **ASHINGTON CAMERA CLUB**



## **CONSTITUTION**

The name of the organisation shall be Ashington Camera Club (hereafter called The Club)

### **OBJECTS**

The objects of the Club are to improve the knowledge, skills and interest of photography to people living in and around the Ashington area in Northumberland.

The group will take part in interclub competitions liaising with the Northern Counties Photographic Federation.

The Club will not discriminate against any person wishing to become a member on the grounds of race, gender, disability, religion or sexual orientation. The Club will work to ensure that membership fees are kept to a minimum so as not to deter anyone from accessing activities due to a low income.

### **POWERS**

The Club has the following powers, which may be exercised only by promoting the objects

- a) To acquire or hire property of any kind
- b) To let or dispose of property of any kind
- c) To co-operate with other bodies
- d) To employ and remunerate staff or advisors as necessary to carry out the objects
- e) To raise funds (but not by means of taxable trading)
- f) To deposit or invest funds in a lawful manner
- g) To set aside funds for special purposes or as reserves against future expenditure
- h) To accept gifts either for general or specific uses of the Club
- i) To do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the object

## **COMMITTEE**

The Club will be run by a management Committee (The Committee) consisting of a Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary and up to eleven other members of the organisation. The members of the Committee shall be elected annually by vote from the membership at an Annual General Meeting. (The said committee will resign at the Annual General Meeting each year but may then stand for re-election if they wish.) The Committee shall meet at least four times a year to conduct the business of the Club and at least three officers and three committee members with power to vote must be present to form a quorum. The Chairperson holds a casting vote. Any member of the Club may apply for election to the Committee.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

A general meeting of the membership of the Club (the Annual General Meeting) shall be held at least once a year on a date to be arranged by the Committee. Not more than 15 months should elapse between one Annual General Meeting and the next. The Secretary shall give notification of the date, time and venue of the meeting to the members, at least 21 days before the proposed date of the meeting.

## **PROCEDURE AT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

A full record of proceedings at every Annual General Meeting of the Club shall be kept by the Secretary or by such other person appointed by the Committee. There shall be a quorum when at least three officers of the Club are present. If, 15 minutes after the start of the meeting, there are not sufficient members to present a quorum, the meeting shall be adjourned to a date 14 days later, when a quorum should be present. Notice of any Annual General Meeting shall be deemed to have been given when announced or sent to members via e mail (giving a minimum of 21 days' clear notice) Any item to be raised at the Annual General Meeting by any club member will need to be submitted in writing 14 days before said meeting. Voting on the election of the Committee members and officers and any other matters arising at any Annual General Meeting shall be by a simple majority on a show of hands, or by paper ballot except where the business of the meeting concerns amendments to the constitution or dissolution of the Club, in which case a two thirds majority shall be required.

## **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING**

An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Club can be called at any time by the Committee and must be called within 14 clear days after a written request to the Committee from at least 10 members (or one quarter of the membership, whichever is the least)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Club shall be open to any interested person upon completion of the Club's Application of Membership Form. Minimum age for membership shall be 18 years of age. A junior member can attend activities if accompanied by a parent, guardian or responsible adult / chaperone. The Committee may, at its discretion, charge an annual fee for membership. Each member of the Club will be entitled to have one vote on the election of officers and Committee members and on other matters considered at the Annual General Meeting or at any Extraordinary General Meeting.

A member may resign his or her membership at any time. The Committee may, by resolution, terminate the membership of any member on the grounds that, in their reasonable opinion, the member's continued membership would be harmful to the organisation. The Committee may only pass such a resolution after notifying the member in writing and considering the matter in the light of any written representations which the member puts forward within 14 clear days after receiving notice.

## **BANK ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

The financial assets of the Club shall be held in a bank, building society or credit union account operated by and in the name of the Ashington Camera Club. There shall always be at least three Committee members empowered to act as signatories to the bank account, one of whom shall be the Treasurer. Two signatories out of the three will be required to sign cheques to release funds. The Treasurer at each committee meeting shall make a statement about the financial position of the Club. The Treasurer shall ensure that annual accounts are prepared at the end of the financial year in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, and The Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) 2000 regulations. The annual accounts shall be presented at the Annual General Meeting and shall thereafter be available for inspection by any interested person.

## **PAYMENT OF BENEFITS**

Any out-of-pocket expenses reasonably incurred by Committee members whilst engaged in the business of the Club shall be reimbursed. Committee members shall not be entitled to any other personal financial benefit arising from their involvement in the running of the Club.

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

Amendments to the Constitution may only be made following consideration by the membership of the Club at the Annual General Meeting. Members must be given 21 days'

notice of the proposed amendments. Voting on the adoption of amendments to the Constitution shall be by two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote on a show of hands.

## **DISSOLUTION**

If at any time Committee at a General Meeting decide to dissolve the organisation, the Committee will remain in office and will be responsible for the orderly winding up of the organisation's affairs. In the event of the group dissolving, all assets must be donated to another voluntary group with similar aims, as agreed by the members

This Constitution was adopted on the 30th day of April 2026, and will be reviewed annually

Name..... Chairperson

Signed.....

Witnessed by:

Name.....

Signed.....

Address.....

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Position in Club.....