

## FUTURE PROOF BISHOPS WALTHAM MISSION

Future Proof Bishops Waltham is committed to working with local communities, organisations and local government to raise awareness of the twin challenges posed by climate change and resource depletion (namely fossil fuels). Future Proof Bishops Waltham aims to develop and promote local activity that will help build a more resilient, sustainable and environmentally sensitive community in Bishops Waltham and the surrounding area.

## CONSTITUTION OF

### Future Proof Bishops Waltham

#### 1. NAME

The name of the Group shall be 'Future Proof Bishops Waltham'.

#### 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Group shall be to

- Raise awareness of climate change and peak-oil and the likely impact on the future viability and vitality of our community.
- Share ideas and develop community involvement in projects that aim to :-
  - a. reduce the carbon footprint of local residents and businesses.
  - b. reduce reliance on fossil fuels.
  - c. increase local resilience and self sufficiency.
  - d. increase the provision of essential services and skills within Bishops Waltham and the surrounding area.
- Work with and through existing networks and community groups.

#### 3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Group will be open, irrespective of political party, nationality and religious opinion, gender or sexual preference to:

- a) All persons living in Bishops Waltham and the surrounding area.
- b) Well-wishers anywhere who support the aims of the Group shall be called associate members.

#### 4. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The Committee shall have the right, for good and sufficient reason, to exclude from meetings an individual member, provided that the individual member shall have had the right to be heard by the Committee before such a decision is made.

#### 5. SUB GROUPS

The Committee may, from time to time and its discretion, identify the need to establish a sub group to undertake particular tasks. Any sub-group formed to undertake tasks will remain accountable to the Committee who will agree their powers and terms of reference.

## 6. THE COMMITTEE

- a) The policy, finance and general management of the affairs of the Group shall be conducted by the Committee who shall be responsible to the general meeting of the Group.
- b) The Committee shall consist of up to 10 people elected at the Inaugural General Meeting and subsequent Annual General Meetings. The Committee shall appoint from amongst its membership, at the first meeting after the Inaugural or Annual General Meeting, officers as considered necessary (see clause 7 below).

## 7. OFFICERS

- a) The Committee shall, at its first meeting following the Inaugural or Annual General Meetings, appoint from amongst its membership, the following officers:

A Chairperson  
Vice-Chairperson(s)  
A Secretary  
A Treasurer

- b) The committee may appoint additional officers for specific roles and activities as it may from time to time determine.
- c) In the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the officers, the Committee shall have the power to fill such vacancies from its own members or those of the Group.

## 8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Once in each year, the Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting of the Group for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report of the Committee and reviewing the accounts. The meeting shall elect representatives of individual members to serve on the Committee as well as review any proposals to amend the constitution and other business of which due notice has been received.

## 9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Chairperson of the Group or the Secretary may at any time at their discretion and shall within 21 days of receiving a written request to do so signed by not less than 10 members having the power to vote and give reason for the request to call a Special General Meeting of the Group. A Special General Meeting may alter the constitution or may consider any matter that has been referred to it.

## 10. VOTING RULES/PROCEDURES

- a) No Member shall exercise more than one vote but in the case of equality of votes at any meeting the Chairperson shall have the second or casting vote.

b) Quorum: For Committee meetings 1/3 of the Committee members entitled to vote shall make a quorum.

c) Minutes: Minutes of all Committee meetings, general meetings and of any Sub Groups shall be retained as a record of proceedings and resolutions by the Secretary.

## 11. FINANCE

a) The Group may, or may not, charge a membership fee which will be agreed at an Annual General Meeting.

b) The Treasurer shall keep proper account of the finances of the Group and shall open a bank account in the name of the Group.

c) All expenditure will be authorised by the Treasurer and ratified by one of the other authorised signatories.

d) Finances may be obtained by means of such lawful fundraising activities as the committee may deem acceptable. All monies raised by, or on behalf of, Future Proof Bishops Waltham shall be applied to further the aims of Future Proof Bishops Waltham and for no other purpose.

## 12. DISSOLUTION

If a General Meeting, by a simple majority decides at any time to dissolve the Group, it shall call a further general meeting of all members of the Group who have the power to vote. The meeting shall be called with 21 days notice and dissolution shall be confirmed if a majority votes for dissolution.

In the event of dissolution being agreed then all assets held in the name of the Group shall be disposed of in a fit and proper way to be agreed at the same meeting.

## 13. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be changed at any General Meeting with any proposals to alter this constitution being delivered in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days in advance.

An alteration shall require the approval of 2/3 majority of individual members being present and voting at the general meeting.

THIS CONSTITUTION was adopted as the constitution of Future Proof Bishops Waltham at the meeting held at The Hampshire Bowman pub, Dundridge on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

SIGNED ..... Chairperson

SIGNED ..... Secretary