

Derbyshire Dales Community Energy Constitution

1 Name

- 1.1 The group shall be known as “Derbyshire Dales Community Energy” or “DDCE”.

2 Vision

- 2.1 Harnessing the potential of our communities to power a sustainable future.

3 Aims

- 3.1 Our core purpose is to help our local communities develop community energy projects.
- 3.2 Community energy refers to the delivery of community-led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners.

4 Area

- 4.1 The group operates in the Derbyshire Dales District.

5 Activities

- 5.1 Raising awareness of the issues and opportunities surrounding Community Energy.
- 5.2 Establishing connections with people, groups and organisations concerned with these issues.
- 5.3 Working with the local Councils (Parish, Town, District and County) to enable Community Energy Projects.
- 5.4 Recruiting new members.
- 5.5 Raising funds to fulfil these aims.

6 Ethos & Operating Principles

- 6.1 The group is an unincorporated, not-for-profit organisation.
- 6.2 A member shall cease to be registered if they bring the organisation in to disrepute. Decisions concerning de-registration will be made by the Core Group, with the Chairman wielding the casting vote.

7 Structure

- 7.1 There is a “Core Group” which undertakes necessary administration and holds an overview of the range of activities undertaken by the group.
- 7.2 The Core Group shall comprise:
 - Chairman and Vice-Chairman: Chairs Core Group meetings and the AGM; prepares and distributes the agenda for Core Group meetings and the AGM; oversees the Group’s activities.
 - Secretary: Principal minute-taker (minute-taking can be rotated); responsible for maintaining membership records
 - Communications Secretary - managing relations with the media; maintaining any of the Groups’ digital media, such as a website, Facebook page, etc.

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- Treasurer: Responsible for managing the group's finances. The post will only be required once the Group has funds to manage.

7.3 Minutes of meetings must be kept.

8 Membership

8.1 All residents or workers in the Derbyshire Dales are welcome to join the group. Members consent to add their name to a membership list having first agreed to abide by the aims and objectives stipulated in this document.

8.2 A list of members will be maintained.

8.3 A member shall cease to be a member if they

- resign; or
- leave the area; or
- is required to leave by a 'majority vote' of the Core Group; or
- dies.

8.4 Members expelled by the Core Group are entitled to appeal at an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) where their petition will be decided by a vote among those attending. Any decision must be carried by a 'majority vote'. Appeals must be made within 14 days of expulsion and considered at an EGM convened within 14 days of the appeal's submission.

9 Meetings

9.1 Core Group meetings shall be held at least quarterly.

9.2 Every year an AGM will be held, with 14 days notice given to all members. For its deliberations to be considered legitimate, the AGM must be quorate. Quorum is an attendance of at least 30% of members.

9.3 The AGM must consider accounts and balance sheets prepared by the Treasurer.

9.4 Members of the Core Group will be elected at the AGM to serve for a term of one year.

10 Decision-making and financial management

10.1 Decisions at Core Group meetings shall be made by a majority of those voting (with one exception: see 10.6 below) following free and fair discussion. In the event of a tie, the Chair will have the casting vote.

10.2 At the AGM, every member has one vote.

10.3 The group can raise funds e.g., through grant applications. These must be approved by the Core Group.

10.4 All income and expenditure will be monitored by the Treasurer on behalf of the Core Group. The Treasurer must prepare a statement of finances for review at the AGM.

10.5 Reasonable expenses incurred in pursuit of the aims of the group may be reimbursed to members subject to agreement in advance by the Core Group. Receipts must be kept as evidence.

10.6 Members may be paid for work to further the aims of the Group, if unanimously agreed by the Core Group (in the absence of the member involved).

10.7 All funds will be held in one or more bank accounts operated by nominated members in the name of the group and administered by the Treasurer. All cheques must be signed by two out of four unrelated signatories. Funds shall only be used to support the aims of the group.

11 Amendments to Constitution

11.1 Changes may be made to this constitution, where necessary, by a 'majority vote' at the AGM or at an EGM convened by the Core Group for that purpose with 14 days notice given to all members.

12 Dissolution

12.1 Dissolution shall require a unanimous decision by the Core Group. In the event of dissolution and after any debts and liabilities have been settled, any funds in the Groups' account shall be divided equally between active projects and interest groups associated with the Group. If there are none, they shall be donated to the nearest Community Energy Group to the Derbyshire Dales, or failing this, to a local charity or group who are working towards similar aims to those of the group.

13 Appendix 1: Glossary.

Majority Vote: An absolute majority i.e., a number of votes constituting more than half of the number cast.