

NORTH NORFOLK GREEN PARTY

CONSTITUTION.

1. TITLE AND STATUS

- a. The name of the local party shall be North Norfolk Green Party (hereafter referred to as NNGP).
- b. NNGP is a constituent part of The Green Party of England & Wales and is subject to its rules and constitution.
- c. The geographical area of NNGP is the area of North Norfolk District Council.

2. AIMS

- a. The object of NNGP is to promote the aims of The Green Party as stated in its Constitution
 - i. to develop and implement policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Party as expressed in the Manifesto for a Sustainable Society
 - ii. to that end to win seats at all levels of government
 - iii. to organise any non-violent activity which will publicise and further these aims

3 MEMBERSHIP

- a. The membership consists of all national Green Party members within the geographical area of NNGP.
- b. Members may not be a member of another political party (other than Green parties abroad) at the same time. Should a member join another political party, then they immediately cease to be a member of NNGP.
- c. NNGP will seek to resolve any disputes between members through discussion and conciliation. The Disputes Resolution Committee (of the national Green Party) can be consulted and may be involved if considered appropriate. However, NNGP has the right and responsibility to take disciplinary action (including suspension or expulsion from NNGP) against any local member who has acted against the aims and agreed policies of the group, or brought it into disrepute. Such decisions can only be made at a properly constituted meeting, where advance notice of the matter has been given. The national disciplinary procedures shall be used for national members.

4 OFFICERS OF NNGP

- a. NNGP shall elect an Executive Committee (its Officers) at the AGM. These must include a Local Party Contact, a Co-ordinator, a Treasurer and a Nominating Officer.
- b. Nominations shall be proposed and seconded and won by a simple majority vote. Any member can ask for a secret ballot.
- c. The AGM has the discretion to decide what other officers to elect in addition to these, such as a secretary, membership secretary, press officer, etc. The AGM may also decide not to fill posts other than the four named at 4a if no suitable nominations are forthcoming, or to propose the merging of posts or the creation of other posts with the agreement of a simple majority. Job descriptions for other posts are attached at the end of this document
- d. Should any member of the Executive Committee fail to attend three consecutive NNGP meetings without good reason or apology, NNGP may co-opt another person at the next meeting.
- e. Officers may be de-selected at an AGM or EGM.

5 MEETINGS AND DECISION MAKING

- a The business of NNGP shall be decided and managed by meetings open to all members (and potential members) with at least 6 meetings a year, chaired by a person selected at the meeting.
- b Motions shall be proposed and seconded, and will be carried by a simple majority vote of members present.
- c Members should be notified of any motions relating to policy at least one week before the meeting to discuss the issue.
- d Only members of NNGP will be entitled to vote. Those unable to attend may make their views known to the meeting, either in writing or through representation by another member, but only those in attendance will be entitled to vote.
- e A business meeting will be deemed in quorum if there are 3 or more paid up members in attendance.
- f Attendance and business conducted at meetings shall be recorded in minutes to be approved by the next meeting.
- g A draft agenda will be circulated to all members at least one week in advance of each meeting, together with the minutes of the previous meeting. Anyone can suggest additional items for the agenda in advance of, or at the start of, the meeting.
- h In the event of a decision needing to be made before the next meeting, an emergency decision may be made by agreement of a majority of officers (3 out of the 4 present). This decision must be ratified by the next meeting.
- i Working groups may be set up to discuss specific issues such as transport policy, literature updating, etc. Any decision should be ratified by the next meeting. All members can attend these groups.
- j Letters to the press on behalf of NNGP should be agreed by 3 members and reported to the next meeting.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a An AGM shall be held, within 15 months of the previous AGM, for the purposes of:
 - i. Presentation of a report of work which has been carried out over the year
 - ii. Presentation of a financial statement for the year
 - iii. Election of officers
 - iv. Agreeing the cheque signatories
 - v. Reviewing strategy and setting goals for the following year and beyond
 - vi. AOB on the agenda to be determined in the same way as for any other meeting.
- b The chair shall be taken by a nominated person as agreed by members attending the business meeting prior to the AGM.
- c All members of NNGP who are present have one vote each and resolutions must have the support of a simple majority.
- d Notice of the AGM shall be given at least one month prior to the meeting and any motions for consideration shall be submitted in writing to the Local Contact at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting.
- e The Agenda will be circulated in advance, at least one week prior to the meeting.
- f The Chair has the right to rule on the admissibility of any emergency notions put forward.
- g The quorum at an AGM shall be 5 or 25% of members of NNGP (whichever is the smaller).

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on a particular agenda may be called on the request of a business meeting or at least 5 members of NNGP. The same general rules apply to EGMs as to AGMs.

7 FINANCE

- a The Treasurer shall collect or arrange the collection of all money due to NNGP and shall receive all donations to NNGP and shall be the custodian thereof.
- b The Treasurer will request payment of any bills incurred by NNGP at a meeting, except where an emergency payment has to be made (as in 5.8) and will report on payment at the next meeting. He will notify the group if it is in danger of becoming overdrawn.
- c All money drawn from NNGP's bank account shall be signed for by two authorised persons from a list of four officers, to be agreed at the AGM in keeping with the bank rules.
- d Wherever possible, funds will be held by a banking organisation with a policy of ethical investment acceptable to the membership (such as Triodos, Co-operative Bank, Ecological Building Society)
- e Members, Ward Parties and Working Groups may incur expenditure on behalf of NNGP provided prior approval is obtained from a meeting and this expenditure may be subject to certification by the Treasurer that there are sufficient funds to cover it.
- f Any affiliation fees to another organisation, or donations to another group must have the approval of a business meeting.

8 SELECTION OF ELECTION CANDIDATES

- a For selection of parliamentary candidates, national rules must be followed.
- b For selection of local authority candidates
- c For selection of regional assembly candidates

9 AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution can only be altered by an AGM or EGM. Amendment to the constitution requires advance notice.

10 WINDING UP

NNGP may cease to exist, or join with other local green parties, only by the agreement of an AGM or EGM. In the event of NNGP being wound up, the balance of funds shall be transferred to The Green Party or to another Green Party, to be decided at the winding up meeting. In the event of the party becoming defunct, national rules apply.

11 DEFINITIONS

Advance notice

Some business requires advance notice. This is written notification to the entire membership eligible to vote at the meeting. For an AGM or EGM it shall be posted 15 days before the meeting. For a monthly meeting, it shall be 8 days. Motions requiring advance notice may not be substantially amended at the meeting.

As amended and adopted at AGM on 27th June 2018