

Thirsk & Malton Green Party Constitution

September 2020

amended

1. TITLE AND STATUS

1.1 The name of the local party shall be, Thirsk & Malton Green Party hereafter referred to as “the party”.

1.2 the party is a constituent part of The Green Party of England & Wales and is subject to its rules and constitution.

1.3 The geographical area of the party is, the area covered by the Thirsk & Malton Parliamentary Constituency (excluding the wards of Hertford & Filey)

1.4 The party is also part of the Yorkshire & Humberside Green Party

2. AIMS

2.1 The object of the party is to promote the aims of The Green Party within the area covered by the Thirsk & Malton Parliamentary Constituency (excluding the wards of Hertford and Filey), as stated in its Constitution:

a) to develop and implement ecological policies consistent with the Philosophical Basis of the Party as expressed in the Manifesto for a Sustainable Society;

b) to that end to win seats at all levels of government;

c) to organise any non-violent activity which will publicise and further these aims.

d) to encourage new members to join.

3. MEMBERSHIP

3.1 The membership consists of all national Green Party members resident within the geographical area of the party.

3.2 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 the party.

Disputes

3.3 The party will seek to resolve any disputes between members through discussion and conciliation. The Dispute Resolution Committee could be consulted and may be involved if considered appropriate. However, the party has the right and responsibility to take disciplinary action (including suspension or expulsion from the party) 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, in quorum monthly meeting where advance notice of the matter has been given. The national disciplinary procedures shall be used for national members.

3.4 Should a situation arise in which a member is in such conflict with the branch that outside agencies such as Disputes Resolution Committee are unable to resolve the situation, then a vote may be taken to exclude that member, so that (s)he would be unbranched and thus unable to attend local party meetings. This action could take place at either an EGM or the AGM.

4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OR OFFICERS OF THE PARTY

4.1 The party members shall elect a Management Committee (OR its Officers) at the founding meeting and subsequently at the AGM. These must include a Local Party Contact, a Coordinator, a Treasurer, and a Nominating Officer as a requirement of the Green Party of England and Wales. Additional Officers will be appointed to build local membership, ensure effective communications and to coordinate local campaigns and these roles will be filled subject to there being sufficient qualified members willing and available. Individual Officers can be appointed from Green Party Members living outside the Thirsk and Malton Constituency should the need arise or if particular expertise and experience is not available within the local membership. The Management Committee will meet when required between scheduled bi-monthly or EGM meetings to make decisions on behalf of the members. These decisions will need to be ratified at the next scheduled meeting of the party.

4.2 Nominations shall be proposed and seconded, and won by a simple majority vote. Any member can ask for a secret ballot.

4.3 The AGM has the discretion not to fill posts other than the four named above 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.

4.4 Should any member of the Management Committee fail to attend three consecutive scheduled (bi-monthly, EGM or AGM) party meetings without good reason or apology, the party may co-opt another person to act in their place.

4.5 In the event of a vacancy an officer may be co-opted at the next scheduled meeting.

4.6 Officers may be de-selected at an AGM or EGM.

4.7 No Officer can hold a position within the party for more than 5 consecutive years.

5. MEETINGS AND DECISION - MAKING

5.1 The business of the party shall be decided and managed by a minimum of 6 meetings per annum with additional meetings being scheduled as required. All meetings are open to all members (and potential new members).

5.2 Motions should be proposed and seconded, and will be carried by a simple majority vote of members present.

5.3 Members should be notified of any motions relating to policy at least one week before the meeting to discuss the issue.

5.4 Only members of the party 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.

5.5 The scheduled business meeting will be deemed to be in quorum if there are 4 or more paid up members in attendance.

5.6 Working groups may be set up to discuss specific issues such as transport policy, literature updating etc. Any decision shall be ratified by the next scheduled meeting. All members can attend these groups.

6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

6.1 Every year an AGM shall be held for the purposes of:

(a) Presentation of a report of work which has been carried out over the year

(b) Presentation of a financial statement for the year

(c) Election of the Executive Committee OR Officers

(d) Agreeing the cheque signatories

(e) Reviewing strategy and setting goals for the following year and beyond.

(f) Any other business on the agenda (to be determined in the same way as for scheduled meetings).

6.2 Motions to be considered at an AGM or EGM must be received at the latest 10 days prior to the meeting to allow advance notice of these motions to be circulated to all members.

6.3 The Chair shall be taken by a nominated person as agreed by members attending the business meeting prior to the AGM.

6.4 All members of the party who are present have one vote each, and resolutions must have the support of a simple majority.

6.5 Notice of the AGM shall be given at least one month prior to the meeting.

6.6 The Agenda will be circulated in advance at least one week prior to the meeting.

6.7 The Chair has the right to rule on the admissibility of any emergency motions put forward.

6.8 The quorum of an AGM shall be 6, or 25% of members of the eligible voting members of the party (whichever is the smaller).

6.9 An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) on a particular agenda may be called on the request of the monthly meeting or at least 8 members of the party. The same general rules apply to EGMs as to AGMs.

7. FINANCE

7.1 The Treasurer shall collect or arrange the collection of all money due to the party and shall receive all donations to the party and shall be the custodian thereof.

7.2 The Treasurer will arrange payment of any bills incurred by the party, and will notify the group if it is in danger of becoming overdrawn.

7.3 All money drawn from the party's bank account shall be signed by two authorised persons from a list of three, to be agreed at the founding meeting and subsequently at the AGM.

7.4 Wherever possible, funds will be held by a banking organisation with a policy of ethical investment acceptable to the membership (such as Triodos, Cooperative Bank, Ecological Building Society).

7.5 Members, Ward Parties and Working Groups may incur expenditure on behalf of the party provided prior approval is obtained from a scheduled meeting, This expenditure is be subject to certification by the Treasurer that there are sufficient funds to cover it. Maximum spending limits for campaigns, publicity or any other amounts above £300 will need the agreement and authorisation of members at a scheduled meeting or by exception the unanimous approval of the Management Committee.

7.6 The local party treasurer must keep a record of all donations and loans.

7.7 If the local party receives a donation or loan of £500, they must check that the donation is a permissible one from an eligible donor, i.e. checking that the individual is on the electoral register. This must be done within 30 days of receipt. Failure to make this check leaves the party liable to a fine by the Electoral Commission, which may well be passed onto the local party.

7.8 All donations and/or loans in excess of £500, and all donations where multiple donations from the same person / organisation received within the same calendar year (between January and December), add up to more than £1000 (£1500 from the beginning of 2010), must be reported to the national party's Treasurer. Once the donation and/or loan has been accepted the Treasurer needs to complete a PPERA Donating Form and then send this to Party Office for their records.

7.9 Any affiliation fees to another organisation or donations to another group must have the approval of a monthly meeting.

7.10 The party will not make donations to other groups or organisations outside of the Green Party.

8. SELECTION OF ELECTION CANDIDATES

8.1 For selection of parliamentary candidates national rules must be followed.

8.2 For selection of local authority candidates national rules must be followed.

8.3 For selection of regional assembly candidates national rules must be followed.

9. AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution can only be altered by an AGM or EGM of the party. Amendments to this constitution require advance notice.

10. WINDING UP

The party may cease to exist or join with other local Green Parties, only by agreement of an EGM or AGM. In the event of the party being wound up, the balance of funds shall be transferred to The Green Party (of England & Wales) or to Scarborough & Whitby Green Party. In the event of the party becoming defunct, national rules apply.

This constitutional document forms the founding document of Thirsk & Malton Green Party.

Signed on behalf of the party by duly elected Officers

Date