

CONSTITUTION

1. TITLE

The group shall be called the Association of Dorset Watches, also referred to as the ADW

2. AREA OF COVERAGE

The area to be served by the group is the geographical area of Dorset. The Association shall support and represent all registered Watch groups in the Dorset Police area.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

ADW shall strive to:-

- (i) Complement Dorset Watch Groups in promoting crime prevention (including crime reduction, anti-social behaviour reduction and reducing the fear of crime) and liaison between Watch Groups, Dorset Police, other statutory bodies and voluntary crime reduction organisations
- (ii) Operate as a non-political, non-racial and equal opportunities organisation
- (iii) Provide jointly with Dorset Police, services, from time to time as required for and on behalf of all Watch Groups in the Dorset Police area
- (iv) From time to time arrange and provide for or join in arranging and providing for the holding of conferences, exhibitions, meetings, lectures, classes, seminars and training courses
- (v) Collect and disseminate best practice information on crime prevention and reduction materials to further the aims of crime reduction and re-assurance
- (vi) Represent the generic views, requirements and aspirations of Watch groups to Dorset Police, Regional and National Watch and other relevant organisations
- (vii) Encourage Watch groups to work closely together by holding regular open social and business meetings in each area to facilitate closer working relationships
- (viii) Carry out reviews from time to time on the effectiveness and impact of the organisation and its strategies
- (ix) Encourage members to look out for vulnerable neighbours and provide them with crime prevention assistance and reassurance
- (x) Liaise and work with the Police, Watch groups and other voluntary and statutory bodies to prevent crime and to make Dorset a safer place to live

4. NATURE OF GROUP

The ADW will be an independent, un-incorporated body, and not under the control of any Local Authority or other outside body

5. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE GROUP

- 5.1 The group will be governed by an Executive comprised of ADW Officers, representatives from any of the administrative areas not covered by an Officer plus a non-voting representative of Dorset Police. All Officers shall be accredited members of a Watch registered on Dorset Alert.
- 5.2 Every two years (in even numbered years), Watch members attending the Annual General Meeting will elect the following Officers:-
Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Officer
- 5.3 Nominations (proposed, seconded and with the consent of the nominee) for Officers may be made by any Association member at the AGM or in writing prior to the meeting. There shall be no limit to the number of terms an Officer can serve.
- 5.4 The Executive may appoint a suitable person to be President of the Association for a 2-year term with equivalent rights to those of an Officer.
- 5.5 The Executive will have the powers to replace any member leaving the Executive during the 2-year term of office, to co-opt more people, and to invite representatives from appropriate agencies to attend meetings as non-voting advisors.
- 5.6 There shall be a quorum of three members, including at least 2 Officers, required to be present at a meeting.
- 5.7 Any time-critical decisions may be taken via e-mail, subject to the requirements stated in sections 5.6 and 7.2 of

this document being met.

6. MEETINGS FREQUENCY

6.1 The ADW shall hold a minimum of three public meetings / events each year including the AGM.

6.2 The Executive shall hold at least three meetings per year.

7. EXECUTIVE MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS

7.1 The Secretary shall keep full minutes of Executive meetings (recording those present, all resolutions and their outcome). All minutes shall be approved and signed by the Chair or (if different) the chair of the meeting at the next Executive meeting and shall (on reasonable notice) be available for inspection by any Executive Member or Association Member.

7.2 Every matter considered by the Executive shall be determined by a majority of votes of the Executive Members present. In the case of equal votes the Chair of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership which shall be held within two months of the financial year-end. 28 days notice shall be given. There shall be a quorum of fifteen Watch members required to be present at this meeting.

9. ACCOUNTS AND FINANCIAL YEAR

9.1 The ADW shall have a bank account in its name.

9.2 Any payment or withdrawal from the account shall require approval by the Treasurer and one other Officer using approved banking procedures.

9.3 The financial year shall run from April 1st to March 31st.

9.4 The draft annual accounts shall be approved by the Executive and examined and certified as correct by an independent individual or organisation.

9.5 The final examined annual accounts shall be laid before members at the AGM for approval.

10. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

10.1 Any alteration to the Constitution must receive the assent of not less than 50% of the Watch members present at the AGM or Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) convened for such a purpose. 21 days notice shall be given for an EGM.

10.2 If the ADW is a registered charity at the time of the proposal any alteration will need the approval of the Charity Commissioners.

11. INTEGRITY

11.1 The name of the organisation shall not be used so as to commit it either publicly or privately to any expense, action or opinion except with the prior consent of the Executive Committee.

11.2 If in the opinion of the Executive an affiliated Group or a representative of any Watch Group brings the ADW into disrepute or behaves contrary to the objectives of ADW, that Watch Group or individual may be expelled from the ADW provided that the Group or individual is informed of the reason and given the right to be heard by the Executive before a final decision is made.

12. DISSOLUTION

12.1 Dissolution of the ADW shall be by the vote of not less than two thirds of the Executive. 28 days' notice of such proposal shall be given.

12.2 Funds held in the name of the ADW shall be donated to one or more local crime prevention / reduction related group(s).

12.3 A copy of the audited final accounts shall be sent to the Charity Commissioners if appropriate.

THIS CONSTITUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE ADW AT THE AGM ON 14th MAY 2018

SIGNATURE CHAIR. NAME.....DAVID AYRES.....