

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE NORFOLK & SUFFOLK WOODCARVERS

1. The aims of the Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers.

To promote the interests of the art of woodcarving in all its forms.

To identify and encourage good and safe working practices within the craft of woodcarving.

To organise local events when possible on behalf of the members.

To provide a meeting place suitable for members to meet once a month to carve, encourage ideas and information, and to give to and receive support from other members.

2. Membership.

Membership is open to any individual who:-

Completes and signs the application form and pays the subscriptions.

He or She must be willing to accept the constitution.

The person must also be acceptable to members.

Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers have the right to refuse membership to anyone without explanation.

The minimum age for membership is 16 (or 18 in full time education).

Minors and vulnerable adults must have a designated responsible adult in attendance with them at all times. This must be either a parent, grandparent, legal guardian, designated carer or a person approved of in writing by the family.

Each junior and supervising adult must understand and agree to comply with the statements on the risk assessment form.

A prospective member may attend the club up to 2 times before joining, only paying the days meeting fee. When joining as a member, the membership can be paid pro-rata, 0 – 6 months or 7 – 12 months. Full membership must be paid in January each year at the first meeting.

The club does keep a few basic tools for beginners, members are expected to provide their own tools and workbench.

All members are expected to operate in a safe manner and will be expected to read the club's health & safety policy before joining.

Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers can continue to exist only if there are a minimum of six (6) members who agree to belong.

3. Constitution rules.

A copy of the constitution will be held by the club and made available on request at reasonable times for inspection by members.

Any proposed new constitution shall be presented to the members for inspection. A majority vote in favour will make the future constitution and will cancel previous rules or constitutions.

Amendments to the constitution shall be made by special resolutions, submitted, proposed and seconded by members and presented to the group in writing.

Voting on a new constitution or amendment to it shall be by a 'show of hands' vote.

With a minimum of 50% members present.

4. Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers Committee

As Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers (at this time of print) has a small membership, it has been decided that all members will comprise the committee. The club has so far existed in this way since its inception 25- 30 years earlier. The club has run along the lines of 'A Collective'. Definition of 'Collective' is a group of people with a shared goal or interest. So, any member may act as a leader as and when required.

In the event of the Secretary or Treasurer's position becoming vacant, members may co-opt any willing and capable member to serve until a replacement can be found.

The group shall administer the affairs of the club in accordance with the constitution.

Every member will be expected to work in the interests of the group as a whole. Failure to do so may cause the defaulter to be suspended.

5. Finance.

The Secretary & Treasurer shall not be held responsible for improperly incurred expenses and liabilities of the club.

Fees (Membership) shall fall due in January of each year.

All income received as a result of Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers activities shall remain the property of the club.

No honorarium payment for services rendered to the club shall be made to the Secretary or Treasurer other than normal expenses as and when incurred.

Cheques drawn on the club's bank account must be signed by two (2) nominated members. The treasurer shall present to the club on the first meeting in January each year a statement of the club's finances together with an up to date bank balance statement.

6. Disqualifications of membership.

Any person not receiving approval and support of the group cannot hold a membership.

The club has the right to decline accepting that person as a member.

Membership may also be rescinded if payment of fees is in default of 30 days.

As we are not a teaching facility and operate for the enjoyment and benefit of our club members, efforts to accommodate special needs & disabilities will be made.

The latter will be at the discretion of the club as a whole as to whether they can attend/or become members.

7. Dissolution

Should the decision be taken by the members to dissolve the Norfolk & Suffolk Woodcarvers, the resulting monies that are owned by the group are to be equally divided and given to Cancer Research & Alzheimer's Research charities or similar, after first paying off any outstanding debts. WITH evidence of such made available that this has been done.