



Conservation Group for the Prestwood Region
Including Great Missenden, the Hampdens,
the Kingshills, North Dean and Speen



The following rules and regulations were adopted at the Annual General Meeting on 4 November 2003

Rule 7 Amended at Annual General Meeting on 02/11/2004

Rules 4 and 18 Amended at Annual General Meeting on 06/11/2012

CONSTITUTION

Definitions of terms

“Ordinary publications” of Prestwood Nature are deemed to be any newsletter, document or notice distributed to all Members without charge.

“Send” in respect to any ordinary publication of Prestwood Nature shall be deemed to include hand delivery to the Member's address, postage or e-mail.

Constitution

1. The Society shall be called Prestwood Nature.
2. The object of Prestwood Nature is to protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment in the Prestwood and Kingshill area through the involvement of local residents.
3. The geographical area covered by Prestwood Nature includes the whole of the ecclesiastical parish of Prestwood and the surrounding region up to a distance of 3 kilometres from the centre of the parish (defined as the parish church of Holy Trinity).
4. Prestwood Nature shall consist of Ordinary, Family and Corporate Members. Membership is open to all residents of, or workers in, the area on payment of a subscription set from time to time at an Annual General Meeting. The subscription may, at the choice of the Annual General Meeting, be varied according to ability to pay, and type of Member (Ordinary, Family or Corporate). Subscriptions shall be set no higher than necessary for administering and running the Society in support of its aims. A Family Membership shall consist of two or more members at the same address. A Corporate Membership shall be in the name of a corporate organisation. Family and Corporate Members shall have the privileges of Ordinary Members, except that each such membership shall be sent only one of each ordinary publication of Prestwood Nature.
5. Members are entitled to attend all events and General Meetings of Prestwood Nature, vote for Officers and Council Members at the Annual General Meeting, stand for election as an Officer or Council Member, propose members as Officers or Council Members, and receive the ordinary publications of Prestwood Nature.
6. All Members shall pay the current annual subscription on joining. Initial subscriptions during the last three months of a calendar year are deemed to include the next calendar year. The annual subscription is thereafter due on or before the first of January each year. The annual subscription may be changed by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting.
7. If on 31st March of any year a Member shall not have paid his/her subscription for that year, the Council may erase his/her name from the list of Members. The Council shall be empowered to remove from the list of Members the name of any Member whose actions are considered to be incompatible with the aims of Prestwood Nature.
8. Prestwood Nature shall be governed by a Council consisting of four Officers and up to eight Ordinary Council Members. The Officers shall consist of Chairperson, General Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. All Officers shall be unpaid.

9. At the first Annual General Meeting four Officers may be elected for three years, four Ordinary Council Members for two years, and four Ordinary Council Members for one year. At all subsequent Annual General Meetings elections will be for three years for all Council Members. At the expiry of six consecutive years of office, a Council Member shall not be eligible for a further twelve months for re-election to the same position. A vacancy arising from premature retirement of an Officer may be filled by co-option by the Council until the next Annual General Meeting.
10. Candidates for nomination to Council shall be paid-up Members of Prestwood Nature and shall be nominated by two Members. Offers to serve on the Council shall be sent in writing to the Membership Secretary at least one month before the Annual General Meeting and shall be accompanied by a signed declaration of the candidate's willingness to serve.
11. All elections of Council Members shall be by a show of hands or paper ballot (according to the decision of the current Council) at an Annual General Meeting, each Ordinary, Family and Corporate Member being entitled to a single vote for each nomination. No nominee receiving approval by less than five Members will be deemed to be elected.
12. The Council shall have the power to fill vacancies among the Officers for the current year, and to co-opt other Members to the total of the number of vacancies.
13. The meetings and events of Prestwood Nature shall be held at such a time and place as the Council shall determine, except that any Annual or Special General Meeting shall take place within the boundaries of the area defined in paragraph 3 of this constitution. An Annual General Meeting shall be held no later than thirteen months after the previous Annual General Meeting. A Special General Meeting shall be convened upon the recommendation of Council or by the signed requisition of at least 10 Members, addressed to the General Secretary, and signifying the purpose thereof. At least twenty-one days' notice of an Annual or Special General Meeting shall be sent to Members.
14. For voting purposes, the quorum at a Council meeting shall be four Members, and at an Annual or Special General Meeting, ten Members.
15. The Annual General Meeting shall receive and, if agreed, adopt the reports and accounts of the outgoing Council; carry out elections for any vacancies in the Council; vote for an examiner for the subsequent year's accounts; and vote upon proposed subscription changes or any other resolutions. Notice of proposed subscription changes or resolutions shall be sent to Members at least twenty-one days before an Annual General Meeting.
16. The accounting year for Prestwood Nature shall be deemed to be from April 1st to March 31st of each year. The annual accounts shall be examined by a person elected for that purpose at the previous Annual General Meeting.
17. The Council shall have the power to appoint sub-committees for any purpose. Members of such sub-committees shall have a majority of Members of Prestwood Nature, and at least one Council Member, but may be selected by the Council. Such sub-committees shall report to the Council as and when requested, and shall have no decision-making powers.
18. The capital and property of Prestwood Nature shall be vested in two Council Members, who shall be elected by the Council, and who may be removed and replaced by resolution of the Council. The position of Chair and Treasurer are the Council Members nominated as the members in which the capital and property of Prestwood Nature are vested or such other members of the Council who may be agreed by the Council.
19. During the continuance of Prestwood Nature, no part of its funds shall be distributed amongst the Members generally, but this rule shall not preclude the Council from making grants to individual Members in furtherance of the objects of the Society and reported to the next Annual General Meeting.
20. Council Members may receive reimbursement of expenditures made on behalf of Prestwood Nature, as long as these are agreed in advance by the Council and on receipt of documentation, but only if they do not relate to attendance at a Council or other meeting or event of the Society.
21. On the dissolution of Prestwood Nature, its remaining funds and assets shall be transferred by the Council to such voluntary Societies whose objects include the study or protection of the environment in an area that includes that of Prestwood Nature, as the Council thinks fit, but no part of the funds and assets may be distributed amongst the Members.
22. No alteration to any part of this Constitution shall be made except at an Annual General Meeting or at a Special General Meeting, and by a majority of three quarters of the Members present.