

Note: this is a document for convenience but is not the constitution. For precise wordings and meanings the original constitution must be consulted.

Ashington Community Centre Trust: Constitution (Trust Deed)

Summary

This is a summary for information purposes and does not replace the Trust Deed nor does this summary have any legal standing. It summarises how the Constitution governs the ongoing operations of the Trust.

1. **The Trust**

The Ashington Community Centre Trust is a registered charity run by a group of trustees.

2. **Assets and use**

The Trust holds the recreation ground, the community centre, the scout hall, the pavilion and the old village hall (now the Ashington Youth Club) in trust for the people of Ashington, West Sussex. These assets are to be used for the recreation and betterment of the people of Ashington without discrimination of race, religion, politics or gender.

3. **The Committee**

The general management and control of the trust premises and activities is carried out by management 'Committee of Management'. The Committee has up to 21 people, some appointed by specified Ashington organisations, some elected by trustees at AGMs. Much of the rest of the text concerns powers preceding the first General Meeting, now long gone. The Committee can co-opt up to 3 people to cover unrepresented interests.

4. **AGM**

Annual General Meetings should take place in May.

5. **Membership retires**

All members of the Committee retire annually at the AGM. Organisations with appointment rights must appoint a member within the month before the AGM.

6. **Member retires early**

If a member appointed by an organisation retires early the organisation may appoint another to serve the *remainder* of the term.

7. **New organisations in Ashington**

If a new organisation is created within Ashington with aims compatible with those of the Trust – the committee may grant them appointment powers. This requires two thirds of the Committee to vote in favour. The Committee may also increase the maximum number of its membership accordingly. These decisions are not effective until approved by the Charity Commissioners.

8. **Organisations ceasing and bye-laws**

- a. If any organisation with appointment powers ceases to exist or fails to make an appointment before the AGM, the AGM can decide how to fill the vacancy.
- b. The Committee may make bye-laws governing the public playing fields.

9. **Appointment problems**

The decisions of the Committee are not invalidated if there is a vacancy on the Committee or if a member turns out to have appointed incorrectly.

10. **Rules & Regulations**

The Committee may make and alter its Rules and Regulations and must record its meetings in minutes. This particularly covers:

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- a. the prices, terms and conditions of use and hire;
- b. the appointment of voluntary officers and their terms of office;
- c. the hire and dismissal of staff; and
- d. the size of a quorum – providing it is not less than one third of the Committee.

Sub-committees

The Committee may create sub-committees, define how they work and delegate functions to them. A sub-committee may include non-Committee members and it can co-opt up to one sixth of its number from unrepresented interests in Ashington.

11. Bank

Payments for use or hire must be paid into a bank account approved by the committee. Note: this deed should specify the bank in question.

12. Use of funds received for use or hire

Funds received for use or hire may be used to meet costs arising from the operation of Trust facilities including staff costs and taxes.

13. Mortgage

The Committee may use the premises as security on a loan or mortgage required for maintaining, extending or improving the premises. This requires a majority vote and the consent of the Charity Commissioners.

14. Discontinuing activities

The Committee can discontinue the use of any asset for the aims of the Trust for any reason (e.g. too expensive). To do so the Committee must hold a public meeting with 14 days notice, advertised prominently on the premises and in a local newspaper. Approval requires a majority vote of voting attendees, and the subsequent consent of the Charity Commissioners. The Committee may then let or sell the Trust Premises in question. The use of the net proceeds needs the same approval and may be used to further the purpose of the Trust through acquisition of new premises or other procurements. The money, and income arising, should be legally invested until needed.

15. Constitution vs. Rules and Regulations

Any Rules or Regulations made must be consistent with this Constitution and if not, then they are invalid.

Founding organisations

For information, the original organisations with powers of appointment are:

- The Ashington Parish Council
- The Ashington Parochial Church Council
- The Committee of the Ashington Men's Club (ceased?)
- The Committee of the Ashington Women's Institute (ceased?)
- The Society of Ashington Methodist Chapel (ceased)
- The Committee of Ashington Cricket Club (ceased)
- The Committee of Ashington Football Club
- The Committee of Ashington Stoolball Club