

SKIBBEREEN WALKING GROUP

CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

- 1.1 The Skibbereen Walking Group shall hereinafter be referred to as "SWG".
- 1.2 The Group shall be affiliated to Mountaineering Ireland.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE GROUP

- 2.1 To promote the interests of Rambling and Hill-Walking amongst SWG members.
- 2.2 To provide the opportunity for members of SWG to meet and participate in Rambling and Hill-Walking together.
- 2.3 To act on behalf of and in the interests of SWG members.
- 2.4 To promote awareness of the need to maintain access to, and the conservation and protection of, the country environment.
- 2.5 To take part in the work and activities of Mountaineering Ireland.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of SWG shall be open to individuals over 18, who apply for and are granted membership, hereinafter referred to as "Members".
- 3.2 Members of other Mountaineering Ireland affiliated clubs may be accepted into the Group as "Associate Members" with a reduced membership subscription.
- 3.3 All SWG Members are deemed to be full members of Mountaineering Ireland and are, therefore, eligible for the benefits that this confers.
- 3.4 Membership of SWG shall only be open to individuals who recognise that Rambling and Hill-Walking can be activities with a danger of personal injury or death. (Members must be aware of and accept these risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement)
- 3.5 Any member whose subscription remains unpaid at 31st January shall cease to be a member of the Group and his/her name shall be removed from the list of members.
- 3.6 The Committee shall have the right to terminate the membership of any member or to refuse membership to any potential member.

4. MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 The Management of SWG shall be entrusted to the SWG Committee, hereinafter referred to as "the Committee".
- 4.2 The Committee shall be composed of the Officers of the Group as elected at the Annual General Meeting together with a maximum of five additional members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 4.3 Membership of the Committee shall be confined to full members.
- 4.4 The Committee shall also have the power to appoint additional members to fulfil specific tasks. In fulfilling such tasks, the member may be invited to attend Committee Meetings from time to time in a non-voting capacity.

5. SWG OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The elected Officers of SWG shall be the Chairperson, the Treasurer, the Secretary, the Environmental Officer and the Communications Officer. Further elected posts may be agreed by a majority vote at an Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2 In the event of a vacancy arising on the Committee, the Committee shall have the power to co-opt a member to fill such vacancy.
- 5.3 Voting for the election of the Officers and Committee members shall take place at the AGM.
- 5.4 The elected Officers and Committee members shall serve for a term of 1 year and may stand for re-election in subsequent years. No officer shall serve for more than 3 years running in the same role.

- 5.5 A quorum for a meeting of the SWG Committee shall be four members. All members of the committee shall be given at least one week's notice of any meeting, and all are entitled to attend such meetings.
- 5.6 The Committee may nominate a representative or representatives of SWG to attend Council Meetings of Mountaineering Ireland to represent the views of SWG and vote on behalf of SWG.
- 5.7 The Committee shall have responsibility for overseeing and coordinating the SWG walk programmes

6. MEETINGS OF S.W.G.

- 6.1 The Chairperson of SWG shall normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Group and Committee. In the case of the unavoidable absence of the Chairperson, the remaining members of the Committee present shall appoint one member of the Committee to chair the meeting.
- In the event of a vote on any issue the Chairman shall have and shall exercise a Casting Vote
- 6.2 An Annual General Meeting of SWG shall be held save in exceptional circumstances not later than 30th November for the purpose of receiving the Annual Reports and Financial Statements of the Committee for the year ending the previous 31st October and for the purpose of electing such Officers and Committee Members as set out in these articles and transacting such other business as set out in the agenda.
- 6.3 Not less than 21 days' notice shall be given of the Annual General Meeting.
- 6.4 Items for inclusion on the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the date for such meeting.
- 6.5 The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be issued to each member not less than 7 days before the date of the meeting.
- 6.6 An Extraordinary General Meeting of SWG shall be called by the Secretary on receipt of a formal written request to consider a specified matter of concern to Members. This request must be supported by the signatures of a minimum 20% of the current SWG membership.
- 6.7 Upon receipt of an application for an Extraordinary General Meeting (in accordance with 6.6 above), the Secretary shall arrange such a meeting, specifying the subject matter and giving Members at least 7 days' notice.
- 6.8 General Meetings of the group shall be open to all members, Associate Members may attend Annual General meetings and contribute to discussions but shall not have voting rights.
- 6.9 Motions for inclusion at the Annual General Meeting may only be submitted by Full Members whose subscription has been paid in full.
- 6.10 In addition to the AGM, the Committee shall hold at least one meeting in each quarter.

7. SWG SUBSCRIPTIONS AND RULES

- 7.1 The Annual Subscription shall be set by the Committee.
- 7.2 The S.W.G. Year shall run from 1st November to 31st of October.
- 7.3 The Treasurer shall maintain a record of membership of S.W.G. and provide such information to Mountaineering Ireland as required from time to time. In addition, the Treasurer shall maintain an accurate record of the Group's finances and shall provide a report on same to each Committee meeting and to the Annual General Meeting of the Group.
- 7.4 Membership subscriptions and insurance premiums shall be paid to Mountaineering Ireland by the Treasurer as required.
- 7.5 The Committee shall have the power to set rules for the activities of S.W.G. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Constitution of S.W.G. and the policies of Mountaineering Ireland.

8. **AMENDMENTS TO THE SWG CONSTITUTION**

8.1 This Constitution may be amended by a simple majority of SWG Members at an Extraordinary or Annual General Meeting of the Skibbereen Walking Group.

8.2 Notice of any proposal for amendment shall be delivered to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the date of such meeting to allow for the required notice in accordance with Articles 6.3 6.4 and 6.5 as above.

9. **DISSOLUTION OF S.W.G.**

9.1 SWG can be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of SWG members at a General Meeting whereupon the Committee shall arrange to dispose of any assets in a manner to be decided by a majority vote of the Members present. Any liabilities at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all SWG Members.

This Constitution was adopted by Skibbereen Walking Group at the Annual General Meeting held on 17th November 2022