

# AGG Constitution

## 1 Name of Group

The group is **Ashford Gay Group** or **AGG** as appropriate

For the purposes of this Constitution document the AGG will be referred to hereafter as “the group”

## 2 Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the group will be:

- To provide a mutually beneficial social group for gay men
- To promote the wider interests of the gay community locally

## 3 Membership

- (a) Membership of the group is open to any gay men who support the aims of AGG, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, nationality, religion or other beliefs
- (b) The membership shall consist of the following categories:
- Full individual member (paying annual subscription or pro rata if joining during the membership year)
  - Honorary membership (non-paying) subject to the selection criteria
- The Executive Committee shall decide on any honorary (non-paying) membership award based on the following criteria:
- Exceptional service/support given to the group
  - Major financial constraints of an individual member
- (c) All members will be subject to the regulations of the constitution and by joining the group will be deemed to accept these regulations and codes of practice that the group has adopted
- (d) The Executive Committee reserves the right, without prejudice to their position, to refuse membership to an applicant, terminate a membership, or refuse renewal of membership without providing a reason for doing so if they consider this action to be in the best interests of the group
- (e) Members will pay annual membership fees as determined at the Annual General Meeting for the membership period April – March each year

- (f) A person(s) shall cease to be a member if the annual membership renewal fee is not paid within two calendar months of the due date (31<sup>st</sup> March)
- (g) Individuals shall not be eligible to vote at general meetings, or be eligible to attend group events, unless the full annual subscription has been paid by the due date (31<sup>st</sup> March) and/or membership has been agreed by the Executive Committee

#### **4 Considerations**

- (a) The Executive Committee, on behalf of the group, respects the right of members to confidentiality as required by law and to carry out its activities by promoting an environment of mutual respect, free from discrimination
- (b) Any incidence of disrespectful, discriminatory or inappropriate sexual behaviour will be taken seriously by the elected committee and dealt with accordingly
- (c) Members are expected to give reasonable notice to those hosting events particularly where catering is involved
- (d) Non-members may attend events on an ad hoc basis so long as they are sponsored/accompanied by an AGG member who will take responsibility for their behaviour
- (e) Ongoing attendance at events by non-members is not permitted – an application for membership should be forthcoming after a maximum of two events

#### **5 Executive Committee**

- (a) The business of the group will be conducted by an Executive Committee which shall consist of the Chair, Treasurer, Social Secretary and Membership Secretary (plus any other co-opted members deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee)
- (b) All committee members must be members of the group
- (c) The term of office shall be for one year, and committee members will be eligible for re-election at the AGM
- (d) If any Executive Committee post should fall vacant after election at the AGM, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill the vacancy until the succeeding Annual General Meeting
- (e) The Executive Committee will be responsible for adopting new policies, codes of practice and rules that affect the organisation of the group so long as they do not conflict with the existing constitution
- (f) The Executive Committee will have powers to appoint any advisers to the committee as necessary to fulfill its obligations

- (g) The Committee will be responsible for disciplinary matters pertaining to members who infringe the group's constitution
- (h) The committee meetings will be convened by the Chair of the group and be held on an ad hoc basis as required
- (i) Only the posts listed above will have the right to vote at committee meetings
- (j) The quorum required for business to be agreed at Executive Committee meetings will be 2

## **6 Finances**

- (a) The group's treasurer will be responsible for the finances of the group
- (b) The financial year of the group will run from *1<sup>st</sup> January* and end on *31<sup>st</sup> December*
- (c) All group monies will be banked in an account held in the name of the group
- (d) An audited statement of annual accounts will be presented by the treasurer at the Annual General Meeting
- (e) The accounts should be audited by a person, or persons, who is not a member of the Executive Committee
- (f) Any cheques/transfers drawn against group funds must be approved by, and contain the signatures of, two members of the Executive Committee

## **7 Annual General Meetings (AGMs) and Extraordinary General Meetings (EGMs)**

- (a) Annual General Meetings are the means whereby the members of the group exercise their democratic rights to comment on, contribute to, and influence, the future conduct of the group's business and procedures
- (b) The group will hold an Annual General Meeting - normally in the month of *March* to:
  - Approve the minutes of the previous year's AGM
  - Receive reports from the Chair, Social Secretary and Membership Secretary
  - Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the Annual Accounts
  - Elect the officers on to the Executive Committee from the membership
  - Agree the membership fees for the following year
  - Consider any proposed changes to the Constitution
  - Deal with other relevant business
- (c) Notice of the AGM will be provided by the Executive Committee with at least 30 days notice to be given to all members

- (d) Nominations and elections for committee roles will be enacted at the AGM
- (e) Any proposed amendments to the constitution shall be sent to the Chair prior to the AGM, who will circulate them with the Agenda at least 7 days before an AGM
- (f) All group members have the right to vote
- (g) The quorum will be 10% of the membership
- (h) The Chair of the group will hold a casting vote at general and committee meetings if required
- (i) An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) shall be called by an application in writing to the Chair supported by at least 20% of the members of the group. The committee shall also have the power to call an EGM by decision of a simple majority of the Executive Committee members

## **8 Amendments to the Constitution**

The constitution will only be changed through agreement by a two-thirds majority vote at any AGM or EGM

## **9 Dissolution**

- (a) A resolution to dissolve the group can only be passed through agreement by a two-thirds majority vote at any AGM or EGM
- (b) In the event of dissolution, all debts should be cleared utilizing available group funds. Any residual funds will be transferred to one or more organizations having aims similar to those of the group

## **10 Implementation**

This Constitution adopted at the AGG AGM held on 30 March 2019