Ide Hill Society
Proposed Constitution

For consideration at the 2026 Annual General Meeting

Adapted from the Charity Commission's model constitution for a small charity.

March 2026

1 The Ide Hill Society

There will continue to be a charitable association known as the Ide Hill Society.

2 Purposes

The purpose of the Ide Hill Society is to preserve and celebrate what makes Ide Hill special and bring the community together through heritage, conservation and shared local activities.

Our specific purposes:

a) **The advancement of education**
by promoting, encouraging, and supporting the study, understanding, and appreciation of the history, heritage, archaeology, geography, culture, and traditions of Ide Hill and its surrounding area, including (but not limited to) the organisation of lectures, talks, exhibitions, guided visits, publications, research activities, and the maintenance and dissemination of educational resources.

b) **The conservation, protection, and improvement of the natural environment**
in and around Ide Hill, including the landscape, wildlife, biodiversity, woodlands, commons, green spaces, and areas of environmental or scenic importance, and by encouraging sustainable land use and environmental stewardship.

c) **The preservation and enhancement of heritage for public benefit**
by promoting the conservation and appreciation of buildings, structures, sites, and features of historic, architectural, cultural, or environmental interest within Ide Hill and its environs.

d) **The provision of opportunities for recreation and leisure in the interests of social welfare**
by encouraging participation in activities such as guided walks, countryside exploration, nature study, and cultural events which support physical and mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

e) **The promotion of public access to knowledge and resources**
by collecting, preserving, maintaining, and making available archives, documents, images, records, and other materials relating to the history, environment, and heritage of Ide Hill, whether in physical or digital form.

f) **The advancement of environmental education and awareness**
by increasing public understanding of local environmental issues, conservation practices, and the importance of protecting areas of outstanding natural beauty and rural character.

g) **The support of voluntary and community activity**
by working in cooperation with local authorities, voluntary organisations, educational institutions, conservation bodies, and other community groups where such cooperation furthers the charitable objects of the Society.

3 Trustees

The Ide Hill Society shall be managed by a committee of trustees who are appointed at the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM), usually held in the spring of each year at the Ide Hill Village Hall.

4 Carrying out the purposes

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the trustees have the power to:

(1) raise funds, receive grants and donations
(2) apply funds to carry out the work of the Society
(3) co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
(4) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5 Membership

Anyone who supports the work of the Society (and are aged 18 or over) can apply to become a member. Membership is available for an annual fee. Life membership is also available to those who have reached State Retirement Age. The trustees will keep an up-to-date membership list.

The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the Society. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6 Annual General Meeting - AGM

(1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice given to all members telling them what is on the agenda. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
(2) There must be at least 6 members present at the AGM, including 2 trustees.
(3) Every member of the Society has one vote.
(4) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts.
(5) Any member may stand for election as a trustee.
(6) Members shall elect between 3 and 10 trustees to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.

7 Trustee meetings

(1) Trustees must hold at least 3 meetings each year. At their first meeting after the AGM they will elect a chair, treasurer and secretary. Trustees can share officer roles. Trustees may act by majority decision.
(2) At least 3 trustees must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
(3) If trustees have a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
(4) During the year, the trustees may appoint up to 2 additional trustees. They will stand down at the next AGM.
(5) The trustees may make reasonable additional rules to help run the Society. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8 Money and property

(1) Money and property must only be used for the Society's purposes.
(2) Trustees must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.

(3) Trustees cannot receive any money or property from the Society, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
(4) Money must be held in the Society's bank account. All payments from the Society's bank account must be authorised by two trustees.

9 General meetings

If the trustees consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the Society, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. Trustees must also call a General Meeting if they receive a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a two thirds majority. Minutes must be kept.

(1) Winding up - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.
(2) Changes to the Constitution - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would alter the charitable nature of the Society.
(3) General Meeting - called on written request from a majority of members.
(4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

10 Adoption

[This constitution was adopted at the Society's Annual General Meeting on 18 March 2026.]