

Fingal Environmental Network

CONSTITUTION AND RULES

TITLES AND OBJECTIVES:

1. The name of the organisation shall be the Fingal Environmental Network hereinafter called FEN.
2. FEN shall seek to represent members of the Irish Environmental NGOs affiliated to the Irish Environmental Network and members of recognised Fingal Environmental groups who are resident in Fingal area.
3. The main objectives of FEN are:
 - Represent a broad range of environmental issues including everything from wildlife conservation to climate change.
 - Develop and promote the environmental consensus view.
 - Promote sustainable development including sustainable transport..
 - Maintain and strengthen links with the national structure (Irish Environmental Network)
 - Represent to state, statutory and other bodies the consensus views of FEN on environmental matters which affect Fingal.

MEMBERSHIP:

4. Membership of FEN shall be open to:
 - Individual members of the Irish Environmental NGOs affiliated to the Irish Environmental Network who are resident in Fingal area
 - Individual members of Fingal Environmental groups registered as part of the Environmental Pillar of Fingal Community Network.
 - Any individual living in Fingal with a track record in environmental issues or formal environmental qualification.
5. FEN may invite representatives of appropriate statutory bodies in the area, and individuals with specialist expertise to attend meetings as observers.
6. Applications for membership shall be made to, and decided by, FEN on such terms as it may from time to time determine.
7. Members shall be liable to pay such membership subscriptions as decided at the FEN AGM. Subscriptions shall be payable in advance on 1st April each year.
8. FEN shall have the right, to terminate the membership provided that the member concerned has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing by FEN, in compliance with the principles of natural justice. For this decision a two third's majority of the membership of FEN, present and voting will be required.

MANAGEMENT:

9. The policy and general management of the organisation shall be directed by the officer board.
10. The functions and powers of FEN shall include the following:
 - (a) It is the supreme governing body between Annual General Meeting:
 - (b) It shall be the authority for interpreting the Constitution:
 - (c) It shall decide on matters of policy, finance and administration and be responsible for their implementation.
 - (d) FEN shall elect an Officer Board, which shall consist of; Chairperson, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer.
 - (e) It shall delegate the functions set out in Clause 12 to an Officer Board.
 - (f) It shall have the power to appoint Sub Committees as required and determine their terms of reference.
11. FEN shall meet not less than twice a year. One of these meetings shall be convened as the Annual General Meeting.

OFFICER BOARD:

12. The Officer Board shall
 - (a) Be responsible for the affairs of FEN between meetings in accordance with the objectives of FEN.
 - (b) Prepare matters for discussion by FEN:
 - (c) Maintain a secure, members only discussion group on the internet to facilitate communication between members in accordance with FEN's objectives.
 - (d) Produce an Annual Report and an Annual Statement of Accounts for the Annual General Meeting:

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

13. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held not more than 15 months after the preceding AGM. At least twenty one days written notice shall be given to all members, and only members whose annual subscription has been paid shall be entitled to vote
14. The agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be;
 - (1) Minutes of previous Annual General Meeting.
 - (2) Annual Report.
 - (3) Annual Statement of Accounts.
 - (4) Motions, re: changes in Constitution.

FINANCE:

15. The Personal property of FEN shall vest in the Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer who shall hold such property in trust for the organisation.
16. Where necessary FEN shall open a bank account on its own behalf as follows:
 - a. Where turnover is less than 500 Euro per year a deposit account in the name of the Treasurer.
 - b. Where turnover is more than 500 Euro per year or funds exceed 1,000 Euro a current account where all cheques drawn on said account shall be signed by any two of the following: Treasurer, Chairperson, Secretary.
17. Correct accounts and books shall be kept showing the financial affairs and receipts and disbursements of FEN.
18. Where funds were expended, a detailed Statement of Accounts listing all expenditure for the last financial year shall be submitted to the Annual General Meeting. Receipts for expenditure shall be available for inspection by members at the AGM

DISSOLUTION:

19. FEN may be dissolved by
 - (a) Special resolution passed at a meeting of FEN with the support of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting. Such proposal shall be in writing signed by the proposer and seconder and issued to all members not less than 28 days before the meeting date.
 - (b) In the event of dissolution, such moneys as are available shall be applied in satisfaction of the debts and liabilities of FEN. The residue, if any shall be distributed evenly among paid up members.
 - (c) If the funds of FEN are not sufficient on dissolution to meet its liabilities, the deficiency shall be contributed in equal amounts by all the constituent bodies, but no such body shall pay more than one year's subscription at the current rate towards the deficiency.

GENERAL

20. An officer of FEN may hold the same office for no more than two consecutive years and shall not be eligible for re election to this office for a further one year.
21. The quorum for all meetings shall be 10% of the members entitled to vote.
22. Except where otherwise provided in this Constitution, all decisions at the meetings shall be taken by a simple majority of those present and voting. In the event of a tie, the presiding Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote. Any decision shall not be rescinded at a subsequent meeting unless with the consent of two thirds of those present entitled to vote and voting.

23. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings.

ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION:

24. Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any Annual General Meeting or at Special General Meeting called for this purpose, by a motion supported by at least two thirds of the members present and voting. Such amendments must be in writing, signed by a representative of two constituent bodies and presented to the Honorary Secretary not less than 32 days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

INTERPRETATION:

25. FEN meeting shall, subject to the authority of an Annual General Meeting, be the authority for the interpretation of the Constitution and shall have full power to decide on any matter not provided for in this Constitution.