

NEW FOREST GUILD OF WEAVERS, SPINNERS AND DYERS CONSTITUTION (amended August 2025)

DATE 1st August 2025

1. This Guild shall be called the New Forest Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.
2. THE OBJECTS OF THE GUILD SHALL BE:
 - a) The preservation and improvement of craftsmanship in handweaving, spinning and dyeing, for the benefit of the public, and
 - b) the promotion of public education in such craftsmanship.

In furtherance of the foregoing object but not further or otherwise, the Guild shall have the following powers:

- a) to cooperate with other organisations relative to the activities of the Guild and seek to offer affiliation with other organisations of like activities for the exchange of information;
- b) to collect and collate information, specimens of the craftsmanship, books and pamphlets, as may be of use to the members for their craft and to hold them at the disposal of the members;
- c) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary to the attainment of the above objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP OF THE GUILD

Membership is open to all upon receipt of dues. Members under the age of 16 accompanied by a member will pay half fees.

4. SUBSCRIPTION

Members shall pay an annual subscription for the period September 1st to August 31st of the following year. The subscription shall be payable in October after the Annual General Meeting and be of such amount as may from time to time be determined by the executive Committee and approved at the Annual General Meeting.

5. ARREARS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

Members who have not paid their subscription by 31st December shall be deemed to have resigned from the Guild.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- a) The Guild shall conduct its affairs by means of an Executive Committee who shall be aged 18 or over and who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. This committee shall be a minimum of 4 in number plus three officers (chairman, treasurer and secretary). All candidates must be proposed and seconded and should be members of the New Forest Guild of at least one year's standing. No elected candidate must be a serving member on the committee of another Weavers, Spinners and Dyers Guild.
- b) The Officers shall be:- Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and shall be nominated by two members and approved at the Annual General Meeting. The Officers shall retire annually but are eligible for immediate re-election, provided no officer shall hold office for more than five years consecutively; one year must elapse before being eligible for re-election.
- c) 25% members of the committee shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the executive committee.
- d) A President may be elected at the discretion of the committee and will be entitled to attend all committee meetings but not to vote thereon.
- e) A Vice Chairman may be nominated by the Chairman and approved by the Committee annually.
- f) At any meeting, in the event of equal voting, the Chairman will have the casting vote.
- g) Co-option of members onto the committee: the Executive Committee may take powers to co-opt a member.

7. SUB-COMMITTEES

- a) The executive Committee shall have powers to appoint sub- committees to work under the direction of the Executive Committee. Persons, not members of the Guild, may be co-opted onto such sub-committees with the consent of the Executive Committee but shall have no powers of voting.
- b) No expenditure and no publicity may be undertaken by the sub-committee without the written consent of the executive committee.
- c) All acts and proceedings of any sub-committee shall be reported back to the executive committee promptly and regularly.

8. MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GUILD AND OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- a) The executive Committee shall meet not less than three times in every year.
- b) Meetings of the Members. There shall be not less than four meetings each year, including the Annual General Meeting which shall be held not more than three months after the end of the financial year.
- c) Fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting a written notice shall be sent to each member, stating the business on the agenda. Members wishing to move any resolution at any such meeting shall do so in writing, not less than one week before the meeting.
- d) At the Annual General meeting of the Guild, each member shall have one vote and the Chairman shall have a casting vote.
- e) Extraordinary meetings shall be called by the Executive Committee or upon the written request of 20 members stating the object of the meeting.

9. FINANCE

The accounts of the Guild shall be checked and verified once a year by an independent person approved by the Committee. The Annual Statement of Account and Balance Sheet shall be submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

10. AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution of the Guild may be altered, amended or added to by means of resolutions moved at an Annual General Meeting of the members, due notice having been given beforehand, as provided in the Constitution, provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have passed unless it has been carried by a majority of at least one third of the members voting thereon and provided that no amendment to Clause 2 (objects), Clause 13 (dissolution) or this Clause shall take effect until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Guild to cease to be a charity in law.

11. PREVENTION OF PUBLICITY OR TRADING IN THE NAME OF THE GUILD

No member may publish any matter in the name of the Guild without the written consent of the Executive Committee. No member may advertise or carry on any trade in the name of the guild.

12. PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.

Reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by members or officers in carrying out the work of the Guild may be paid at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

13. DISSOLUTION OF THE GUILD.

The Guild may be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two thirds majority and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, of which twenty- one days' notice shall have been given to members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Guild, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid or distributed among members of the Guild but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Guild as the Guild may determine and if in so far as effect cannot be given to this provision then to some other charitable purpose.

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