**Friends of Tawd Valley Country Park**

## CONSTITUTION

1. The Group shall be known as the Friends of Tawd Valley Country Park, hereafter referred to as “the Group”.

2. The objects of the Group will be:

The advancement of environmental protection and improvement for the public benefit through the conservation and management of the Tawd Valley Country Park in Skelmersdale and its environs;

The promotion of good citizenship for the public benefit through the provision of opportunities for volunteering and other forms of civic and community engagement in relation to Tawd Valley Country Park;

The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage and science through the provision of facilities and open spaces suitable to the hosting of cultural, artistic and scientific activities and through awareness raising of and research into the heritage of the Tawd Valley Country Park in Skelmersdale and its environs;

The advancement of games and sports which promote health by involving physical or mental skill or exertion and are undertaken on an amateur basis;

The provision and maintenance of facilities and open space for recreation and other leisure-time occupations in the interests of the social welfare of the aim of improving the conditions of life of people in Skelmersdale and the environs with;

The advancement of education through the provision of building and open space appropriate for use by schools, colleges and other educational institutions in Skelmersdale and the environs; and

Any other charitable purpose which may arise in relation to the conservation and management of the Tawd Valley Country Park.

1. The Group will be benevolent and charitable in nature, and non-profit making. Members of the Group will work on a voluntary basis for the well being of the Group and shall not gain nor profit financially in anyway as a result of their work for the Group.
2. Membership shall be open to any person on completion of a membership application form.
3. Membership may be withdrawn subject to the right of the member, or members, involved, to appear before a meeting of members to appeal against their withdrawal of membership.
4. The Group shall be controlled by a Committee, comprising of officers elected by the members of the Group annually at an Annual General Meeting. The Committee will meet at agreed intervals and not less than four times per year.
5. The role of the Committee will be to control the affairs of the Group, to keep accurate accounts of the Group’s finances and to make decisions on the basis of a majority vote (the Chair will be entitled to an additional casting vote in the event of tied voting).
6. The Committee shall have the power to refuse membership providing reasons are given for such refusal and persons refused membership have the right of appeal to the full Group membership.
7. The Committee will make best use of funds available with regard to pursuing the aims and objectives of the Group.
8. The Committee shall maintain a bank account in the name of the Group with at least two signatories being required for each cheque or transaction involving the Group’s funds held within the account. The signatories shall be nominated by the Committee from the elected officers of the Group and shall not be related.
9. If expenses or the repayment of other costs incurred by members are refunded to members or officers of the Committee, these will be recorded and be made known to the membership. Only “reasonable” reimbursements will be made and only for expenses incurred whilst working for the well being of the Group and the Tawd Valley Country Park.
10. An Annual General meeting (AGM) of members will be held during May, to follow the end of the financial year of the Group. Members at the Annual General Meeting will elect on a democratic basis a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and any other officers that they consider necessary for the administration of the Group, to serve on the Committee for the coming year. Members elected to the Committee will only serve for a period of one year but shall be able to submit themselves for re-election if they so wish.
11. The financial year of the Group shall run from April to March each year. The Treasurer will present an account of the past year’s financial performance at each AGM. Copies of the account will be available to members prior the meeting.
12. An Extraordinary General meeting (EGM) may be called at any time at the request of a minimum of five current members.
13. In the event of the Group going into dissolution, any assets remaining after settlement of any outstanding debts of the Group shall be donated to a local non-profit making organisation or non-profit with similar aims and objectives decided on by the then current members.
14. This constitution may only be amended via a vote of members at an AGM or EGM. However no change to this Constitution will be allowed which will alter the benevolent and charitable aims of the Group as outlined in clauses (2) and (3) above, nor to this clause or clause (15) dealing with the procedure to be followed with respect to the dissolution of the Group.

This constitution was adopted by Group Members at a special meeting called for this purpose held at the Ecumenical Centre, Skelmersdale on May 24th 2018.

Signed by the Chairperson \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

And witnessed by two committee members;

(SIGNED) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (POSITION) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 &

(SIGNED) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (POSITION) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_