

MULKEAR CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

CONSTITUTION & RULES

1. **NAME**

- 1.1 The name of the Club shall be Mulkear Conservation Volunteers hereinafter referred to as the Club.

2. **OBJECTIVES OF THE CLUB**

- 2.1 Help protect, manage and enhance the Natural Heritage of the Mulkear Catchment through volunteer participation in practical conservation projects. Areas of work may include removal of invasives plants – e.g. Himalayan Balsam, path clearance and scrub clearance work, assisting in otter survey work / holt construction, assisting with field trips (Heritage Week events), organising talks, workshops, training, etc
- 2.2 Help to enhance biodiversity through volunteer participation in practical conservation activities linked to MulkearLIFE's work programme within the Mulkear catchment – covering Limerick & Tipperary.
- 2.3 Assist in the work of local authorities and departments (Limerick County Council / Tipperary County Council North & South Riding & the National Parks & Wildlife Service) in maintaining access to, conservation of and protection of the natural environment of the Mulkear Catchment.
- 2.4 Assist in the conservation work of local community groups to maintain the natural environment of the Mulkear Catchment.
- 2.5 Promote awareness of the natural environment through practical conservation activities.
- 2.6 Promote the development of environmental skills of volunteers through training and practical conservation activities.
- 2.7 Ensure the volunteering experience of members is fulfilling and enjoyable.
- 2.8 Promote and support the work and objectives of other practical conservation organisations in Ireland.

3. **MEMBERSHIP OF THE CLUB**

- 3.1 Membership of the Club shall only be open to individuals who recognise that Club objectives will be achieved through practical conservation activities and that there is potential risk of personal injury associated with these activities. Members shall be aware of and accept these risks and agree to be responsible for their own actions and involvement.
- 3.2 Individuals can sign up as a member by filling out the membership form for the club. These membership details shall be maintained by the club secretary and shall be updated on an annual basis.

4. **MANAGEMENT OF THE CLUB**

- 4.1 The club will be controlled by its members acting in General Meetings. One of these meetings will be the Annual General Meeting at which Officers of the Club will be elected.
- 4.2 Management of the Club between General Meetings shall be entrusted to the elected committee, who must act in accordance with the Constitution and the Rules of the Club. They may make decisions on matters not covered by Constitution or Rules but these must be approved by the next General Meeting.

5. **OFFICERS OF THE CLUB**

- 5.1 The Officers of the Club shall be elected by the members at an Annual General Meeting and shall be the Chair, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the PR officer.

5.2 The Officers shall be nominated from among the member volunteers and volunteer leaders and no Officer shall serve continuously in the same position for a term longer than three years

6. COMMITTEE OF THE CLUB

6.1 The Chair of the Club will normally preside at and chair all meetings of the Committee and General Meetings of the Club and shall be responsible for reporting to the Membership at the Club's AGM.

6.2 The Committee shall be composed of the Club Officers plus three members without a specific role.

6.3 The Committee shall nominate representatives of the Club to attend National Conservation Volunteer meetings to represent the views of the Membership and vote on behalf of the Club.

6.4 The Club Secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence relating to Club affairs and for giving notice of General and/or Committee meetings, and the writing and distribution of minutes from those meetings. The Secretary shall give, at least 7 days notice of such a meeting and its agenda. Items for inclusion of the AGM should be submitted at least 21 days prior to the AGM and communicated to the members at least 14 days before the AGM. Items for inclusion may only be proposed by members of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers (MCV) and seconded by a member of the MCV. The Secretary shall keep records of the Membership of the Club as required.

6.5 The Treasurer shall account for all income and expenditure if any such income / expenditure arises.

6.6 The Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional non-voting members.

6.7 A quorum for a meeting of the Committee shall be half of the elected voting members rounded up to the next whole number. The Committee shall hold at least two meetings each year.

7. CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS

7.1 No membership fee shall apply to club members unless it is deemed necessary for the financial stability and continuation of the club. A General meeting shall have the power to establish the membership fee and to set membership subscription levels for the Club.

8. RULES OF THE CLUB

8.1 A General meeting shall have the power to set Club rules. Such rules shall be in accordance with the articles of the Club's Constitution and the policies of the Mulkear Conservation Volunteers.

8.2 Any signed up member of the club is entitled to vote at General meetings.

8.3 Votes will be decided on a show of hands basis.

9. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CLUB

9.1 This Constitution may be amended by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting. Notice of any proposed amendment must be delivered (see 6.4 above)

9.2 The Club rules may be amended by a simple majority of those present and voting at a General Meeting. Notice of any proposed amendment must be delivered (see 6.4 above)

10. DISSOLUTION OF THE CLUB

10.1 The Club can be dissolved by two thirds majority vote carried out in accordance with Article 9 whereupon the Committee will arrange to discharge Club assets (if any) equally amongst the Members or to pass one such Club assets (if any) to a similar such body. Club liabilities (if any) at the time of dissolution shall be the joint responsibility of all Members.