

CONSTITUTION OF THE MIDDLEHAM TOWN TWINNERS' ASSOCIATION (MTTA)

1. NAME OF THE ASSOCIATION

The name of the Association shall be the "Middleham Town Twinning Association" (MTTA)

2. AIMS OF THE ASSOCIATION

- a. To promote and foster friendship and understanding between the people of Middleham and District and those of Azincourt and District in France – and those of other towns with which the Association may wish to form links.
- b. To encourage visits by individuals and groups to and from linked towns, particularly children and young people and the development of personal contacts, and by so doing to broaden the mutual understanding of the cultural recreational educational and commercial activities of the linked towns.
- c. To organise fund raising events to foster the aims of the Association.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all persons from the Middleham area in sympathy with the aims of the organisation. Members from outside Middleham have full rights of membership, including holding office. There shall be three categories of membership:

- a. individual members
- b. Family membership, being open to all members of a family excepting sons and daughters over the age of 18.
- c. Group membership. Group membership does not of itself entitle members of the group which is a member to the rights of individual or family membership. Group membership entitles not more than 2 members of the group to the rights conferred on individual or family members,

The MTTA shall have the power, without assigning any reason, to refuse membership of the Association to any applicant.

4. COMMITTEE

The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by the MTTA Committee consisting of up to 10 members. The Mayor (taken to be the Chairman for the time being of Middleham Town Council) shall be invited to join the Committee. The remaining 9 (or lesser number, as the Association from time to time deem appropriate), to be elected by the Association, being broadly representative of organisations, clubs and individuals in the Middleham area. Etc etc.

- a. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt and co-opted members shall have the right to vote.
- b. The quorum shall be 4.

- c. The Committee shall have the power to set up sub-Committees, which shall have the power to co-opt their membership, with the power to vote.

5. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association. The Association shall appoint a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and such other officers as it deems necessary, including an Honorary Auditor.

6. THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman of the MTTA Committee, the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer shall be ex-officio members of all sub-committees.

7. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The MTTA shall call an AGM for the Association between January 1st and 31st March each year, giving each member of the Association at least 14 days' notice in writing.

8. VOTING AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- a. Only members present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote.
- b. Each individual member shall be entitled to one vote and each Family or Group member shall be entitled to two votes per Family or Group, provided that two members of each Family or Group are present at the meeting. The Chairman shall have a casting vote.

9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING (SGM)

A SGM of the Association may be called at any time on a written request signed by at least 15 members of the Association and delivered to the Honorary Secretary, containing details of the matter to be discussed. At least 28 days' notice must be given.

10. ACCOUNTS

A statement of accounts to 31st December each year shall be presented at the AGM. These shall have been independently examined by a suitable person. Appointed by, but not a member of, the Committee of MTTA.

11. MONEY

All monies received on behalf of the Association shall be kept in safe custody by the Honorary Treasurer, and all cheques drawn on the Association's account shall be signed by any 2 of the Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and any 2 other nominated members of the Committee.

12. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The minimum annual subscription for membership of the Association shall be:

Individual membership: £7

Family membership: £15

Group membership: £15

Unless these subscriptions are amended at the preceding AGM or at a SGM of the Association. Subscriptions shall be due and payable immediately upon membership of the Association being confirmed in any calendar year and shall be renewed within 14 days of the date of the AGM for the year within which that meeting is held.

No member shall be eligible to travel arranged by the Association unless he or she is an individual member at the time of travel and has been such a member for at least 6 months prior to the date of travel.

13. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Amendments to the Constitution shall only be made at the AGM or a SGM. Notice of the proposed amendment shall be given in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting and details shall be given in the notice convening the meeting. No such amendment shall be carried unless not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting at the meeting vote in its favour.

14. DISSOLUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION

In the event of the dissolution of the Association, all surplus funds shall be transferred to such charity or charities as the MTTA Committee shall in its absolute discretion decide.