

People into Permaculture Constitution

A) Name

The name of the collective is People into Permaculture

B) Aims

People into Permaculture is a community organisation that takes a people-centred approach to permaculture. Encouraging us to apply principles of permaculture to our lives, relationships and society with the goal of contributing to personal, social and planetary well-being.

Aims:

- Embedding permaculture philosophies of people care, earthshare and fareshare to connect people, food and environment
- Create a community and supportive network of marginalised groups which supports and develop individual skills of community members
- Creating diverse engagement within the community while supporting sustainable and creative practices
- Working with other organisations to help create bespoke accessibility and diversity in practical ways
- Challenging sexism, racism, transphobia and all forms of discrimination in everything we do

C) Carrying Out the Purposes

To carry out the purposes, the board has the power to: -

- Raise funds, receive, grants and donations
- Take on leases and sub-contracted work
- Co-operate with and support other groups with similar purposes
- Do anything else within the law and ethos of People into Permaculture to achieve the aims

D) Steering Committee and Operational Structure

People into Permaculture is overseen by a board of at least two people who act as a steering committee. The purpose of this is to manage and consider the infrastructure and strategic direction, ensuring work carried out under the banner of People into

Permaculture fits within the ethos outlined in the aims. They may also act as an advisory body to advise on client engagement, partnerships and funding.

The business of the group will be carried out by a committee decided by consensus (and if there is no consensus a vote) at the Annual General Meeting. The committee will meet when necessary, these meetings may include online forums. The committee will consist of a minimum of two members but may be more. Additional members may be co-opted onto the committee at the discretion of the committee.

The committee may invite other people to share skills or knowledge, and project administrators and facilitators will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the organisation.

The governance model is that of shared responsibility and labour, and we have forgone the traditional roles (Chair/Secretary/Treasurer etc.) in favour of shared responsibilities between equally responsible co-chairs who will ensure between them and any project managers:

- The form of the meeting (i.e. online forum or in-person)
- Reporting responsibilities of members/co-chairs at meetings
- Minutes and notes will be taken by the project administrator

If a co-chair stands down during the year a replacement will be co-opted or decided by the next General Meeting. Any committee member not attending a meeting without apology for six months will be if they wish to remain. Committee meetings will be open to any member of People into Permaculture wishing to attend. The committee may invite other people to share skills or knowledge at these meetings.

Membership to the collective is open to anyone who:

- Supports the aims of the group
- Request to join via permaculture@magneticideals.org

E) Ceasing to be a member

Members may resign at any time in writing to the co-chairs at the permaculture@magneticideals.org email address, and at their request will be removed from the website as soon as possible (but no later than) within two calendar months.

Any offensive behaviour, including racist, sexist, homophobic, transphobic, or inflammatory remarks, will not be permitted. Anyone behaving in an offensive way or breaking the equal opportunities policy may be asked not to attend further meetings or

to resign from the group depending on the severity of the breach. The individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the committee and the right to have representation or support with them, before a final decision is made.

F) Equal opportunities

People into Permaculture will not discriminate on the grounds of background, disability, race, sexual orientation, religious or political belief, gender reassignment, marital status, pregnancy or maternity, age.

G) Meetings

Annual General Meetings: The AGM will be run by the board, all members are welcome. Members will be contacted about the date, time at least one month before. The AGM will happen at least every twelve months. Members can submit items for discussion up to one month before, tabled items will be considered. Committee elections and constitution amendments can take place if desired, and where decisions cannot be made by consensus a vote will be held. The quorum for the AGM will be one-third of the total number of members.

Special general meetings: A Special General Meeting can be held at the request of the majority of the committee or at least four other members giving a written request to the committee stating the reason for their request. The meeting will take place within twenty-one days of the request. All members will be given two weeks' notice of such a meeting which may be held via an online forum. The quorum for the Special General Meeting will be one-third of the total number of members.

General meetings: General Meetings are open to all members and will be held at least once every 3 months or more often if necessary. These can be held in person or as an online forum. The quorum for a General Meeting shall be one-third of the total number of members.

Committee meetings: Committee meetings may be called by a co-chair. Members must receive notice of meetings at least 7 days before the meeting. Committee meetings will happen once a year. The quorum for Committee meetings is two Committee members.

K) Finances

An account will be maintained on behalf of the Association at Wave Community Bank, Hove. Two cheque signatories will be nominated by the Board. The signatories must not be related nor members of the same household. All payments will be signed by the signatories. Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by committee and a

financial statement given at each meeting. All money raised centrally by or on behalf of People into Permaculture is only to be used to further the aims of the collective.

L) Amendments to the constitution

- Changes can be made amended via special general meeting or AGM.
- Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given in writing and circulated to all committee and members.
- Any proposal to amend the constitution will require membership consensus, if consensus cannot be reached then the agreement of two-thirds of the membership via a vote.

M) Dissolution

If a meeting decides that it is necessary to close down the group, it may call a Special General Meeting. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group. If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to a local charitable organisation decided by the group.

This constitution agreed online at the People into Permaculture meeting by the Board Members and attending Members on 22 August 2022

Please note fully signed version available on request, signatures removed for security reasons on web version.