

# EBEG CONSTITUTION

NAME: Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group ("The Group")

## OBJECTS:

- to bring together all those interested in past or present bus and coach operations in Essex and/or the vehicles of Essex operators;
- to encourage interest in these and to study, discuss and document them by way of social meetings, outings, retention of archive material, production of publications, maintenance of a website and social media presence and by any other means;
- to produce a newsletter or magazine for members (currently known as 'Essex Bus News' or 'EBN') and/or to disseminate information through a website, social media presence or other electronic means.

## MEMBERSHIP:

- Shall be open to all those aged 18 and over, subject to the ultimate discretion of the Committee. [Anyone under 18 can subscribe to our magazine but will not be a Member]
- Membership fees will be due annually in accordance with levels set by the committee. Payment of these will entitle a member to one copy of each magazine and the right to vote at any General Meeting.
- The committee may, at its discretion, elect a limited number of individuals as life members in return for exceptional services to the Group.
- Membership may be refused or terminated by the Committee in respect of any individual who acts contrary to the interests or instructions of the Group, or whose conduct is deemed to have brought or is liable to bring the Group into disrepute. Any such person shall not subsequently be brought as a guest or allowed at Group meetings or outings.

## MANAGEMENT:

- The Committee shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer together with up to six other individuals as are elected at the will of each Annual General Meeting. No one person shall hold more than one of these positions.
- Nominations for these posts should be made in writing to the Secretary prior to the date of the AGM although the Chairman of the AGM may, at his/her discretion, accept further nominations from the floor.
- The Committee may co-opt such further members for part of any year as may be considered expedient for the effective running of the Group.
- The Group may from time to time appoint a non-executive President.
- Committee members and any President will not be entitled to remuneration but may claim reasonable expenses for items incurred on Group business, and will ordinarily be exempt from payment of membership fees whilst part of the Committee.
- The Committee shall meet not less than twice between each Annual General Meeting, and a quorum shall consist of not less than half the current Committee membership. Written reports from members unable to be present shall be accepted as Committee business, but voting will be restricted to those present (and subject to a Chairman's casting vote in the event of a tie). In the absence of a quorum, the Chairman of the meeting may nevertheless take executive decision on matters of urgency based on the views of those present, subject to ratification as soon as practicable by post, telephone or e-mail amongst the remaining Committee members.

- The Committee shall have the final decision on any matter not provided for in the constitution of the Group, or in any dispute or disagreement over its interpretation.
- Any proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be published in the magazine or otherwise communicated to the membership giving not less than 28 days in which to object.

#### FINANCE:

- The Group shall operate on a “not for profit” basis. Any surplus earned in any one year shall be carried forward to subsequent years or may be appropriated for specific projects approved by the Committee. Any loss incurred in any one year shall be met from previously accumulated surpluses. Except upon the winding up of the Group, no funds may be distributed to members.
- The Treasurer will be responsible to the Group and Committee for the proper ordering of the Group's finances. The Group's bank accounts may be operated on the sole signature of any one of the Treasurer, Chairman and Secretary.
- The Group's financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December.
- Independently examined Accounts shall be presented by the Treasurer at each Annual General Meeting.
- In the event of the Group's failure or winding-up, any surplus assets shall be distributed equally amongst all the currently paid up members of the Group (including committee and life members) or be directed to such project or charity as shall be agreed in accordance with an EGM called for such purpose.
- In the event of the Group's failure, the liability of members and officers shall be limited to £1.

**GENERAL MEETINGS:** An Annual General Meeting shall be held within a reasonable period following the end of the Group's accounting year. Notice of the AGM shall be given in Essex Bus News or otherwise communicated to the membership not less than 28 days beforehand. An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened at the instigation of the Committee or a requisition of not less than 15 fully paid-up members, upon not less than 28 days notice in Essex Bus News. A quorum at any such AGM or EGM shall consist of not less than 15 members, and any resolution shall be approved if supported by at least two thirds of those present and entitled to vote.

**VISITS, MEETINGS AND OUTINGS:** Members and guests must comply with all reasonable instructions from Group officials and those of any operator, rally or function being attended. Any person causing damage or loss during a Group function shall be held personally responsible for any such actions.

**USE OF THE NAME:** Use of the Group's name in any publication or broadcast shall only be with prior consent of the Committee or Secretary. The Group retains copyright over all publications and photographs within its collection.

**WEBSITE:** The domain name and content of any website and any social media pages shall remain the property of the Group, whose committee shall make such arrangements for their maintenance as it sees fit. Any individual undertaking such functions shall do so on the basis that no personal liability attaches to him/her for any matter arising.

**ACCEPTANCE OF RULES:** All members agree that they will abide by the Group rules and any subsequent amendments. [as adopted March 2011, updated September 2018 and January 2023]