

A Focus on Nature

The Youth Nature Network



Constitution

1. Name

- 1.1 The name of the organisation will be A Focus on Nature (hereinafter referred to as the organisation).
- 1.2 The organisation will also be known as AFON.

2. Aims

The organisation is established:

- 2.1 To provide a safe, secure and enjoyable platform for young nature conservationists and naturalists (aged 16-30) to network with each other, and older professionals.
- 2.2 To inform wider nature conservation debates by offering a different perspective on environmental solutions, and innovative ideas on how we can work towards a better future.
- 2.3 To work with other youth networks and environmental organisations to create a youth conservation movement in the UK.
- 2.4 To provide a voice for young nature conservationists in a wider environmental forum, representing their views, wants, ideas and values.
- 2.5 To contribute to a society in which nature is valued and better protected for the benefit of young people and future generations.
- 2.6 To ensure a transfer of skills between generations, to further education and provide young conservationists with the opportunity and confidence to attain their goals, and secure jobs.
- 2.7 To provide events and workshops for young conservationists that help enrich and further their skills in their chosen field.
- 2.8 To promote nature conservation and natural history to young people.

3. Membership

- 3.1 Membership of the organisation will be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, gender, race, religion, belief, sexuality or disability:
- 3.2 People between the ages of 16 and 30 who support the aims of the organisation and who have completed an application form.

3.3 The membership of any member may be terminated by the committee at any time with good reason, but the member has the right to hear from the committee before a final decision is taken.

4. Privileges of Membership

4.1 Members can apply to receive a featured profile on the organisation's website.

4.2 Members receive: a featured profile, priority sign up and notice for events and an invitation to the AGM.

5. Supporters

5.1 Supporters of the organisation are under 16s, promoters, organisations, sponsors, alumni, mentors and other individuals who actively support the organisation's aims.

5.2 AFON may with the approval of the committee establish formal partnerships with other organisations that endorse its aims.

6. Officers and Committee Members

6.1 The organisation will be managed by a formally appointed committee, the members of whom will carry out their work for the organisation in a voluntary capacity.

6.2 There will be no maximum number of persons sitting on the committee at any one time.

6.3 The minimum number of persons sitting on the committee is 4, consisting of the core officers.

6.4 The core officers will be Creative Director; Associate Director; Treasurer & Fundraising Officer; Administrator.

6.5 The non-core officers could include: Projects Officers; Online and Social Media Manager; Mentoring Coordinator; Membership Coordinator.

6.6 Members of the committee will be appointed following a formal recruitment and interview process.

6.7 Candidates will be interviewed by at least two members of the organisation's committee, including the Creative Director and/or Associate Director. Feedback will be requested from the founders of the organisation. Recommendations will be made to the committee who will collectively decide upon the final appointment.

6.8 Members of the committee shall be 30 years of age or below.

6.9 Duration of terms of committee service must be a maximum of 3 years, after which a formal interview process will take place to fill the vacant position.

6.10 Committee members must give a notice period of at least 1 month should they wish to resign their position before the end of their full term. If no notice period is given, the position will automatically become available 3 months prior to the end of the three year term.

- 6.11 Creative Director and Associate Director must give at least 3 months notice should they wish to resign their position before the end of their full term.
- 6.12 If no one puts themselves forward for consideration for the available position or a suitable candidate cannot be found, the outgoing committee officer may put themselves forward for reappointment for a further 1 year, after which the position will become available once again.
- 6.13 To allow for continuity and to retain a degree of experience at any one time, available positions should be staggered so that no more than 50% become available in any one year.

7. Functions of the Committee

- 7.1 To uphold the aims of the organisation.
- 7.2 To organise events, projects and workshops.
- 7.3 To ensure the financial sustainability of the organisation.
- 7.4 To engage with conservation organisations and professionals.
- 7.5 To provide mentoring and training opportunities.

8. General Meetings

8.1 Annual General Meetings

- 8.1.1 One Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place each calendar year, during which the committee will report to members and other invitees on the activities of the year, financial accounts and plans for the following period.
- 8.1.2 The following will be invited to the AGM: members, founders, alumni and mentors. An invitation to the AGM shall go out at least one month prior to the AGM. The invitation shall include financial records.
- 8.1.3 An AGM shall be quorate if the core members or the committee are present.

8.2 Committee Meetings

- 8.2.1 The committee will hold at least 4 meetings per annum, at least 2 of which shall be face to face.
- 8.2.2 Chairing of meetings and writing minutes will be shared by members of the committee.
- 8.2.3 Minutes of committee meetings will be made available to members and supporters through social media channels.
- 8.2.4 Voting will be by a show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Creative Director (or the Associate Director if not in attendance) will have the casting vote.

9. Financial

- 9.1 Any money obtained by the organisation shall be used only for and by the organisation.
- 9.2 Any bank accounts opened by the organisation shall be in the name of the organisation.
- 9.3 The Treasurer will be accountable for keeping good accounts and dealing with day to day expenses.
- 9.4 Any cheques will be signed by the Treasurer and the other nominated signatory on the account.

10. Constitutional Amendments

- 10.1 Changes to the constitution can only take place at a quorate AGM (see 7.1.3).
- 10.2 Responsibility for adherence to this constitution lies with the directors.

11. Dissolution

- 11.1 The organisation may be dissolved at any time if agreed by a quorum at any General Meeting. In the event of dissolution, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another organisation with similar aims.

This document was adopted at a General Meeting of the organisation on:

14th January 2018

Signed by:

Creative Director: Elliot Naylor 

Associate Director: Isla Hodgson 

Administrator: B D G BENJAMIN EAGLE

Treasurer: MAISE BRETT 

Other committee members:

Beth Aucott 

Ryan Clarn 

Pete Cooper 

Charley Miller  

Andreas Fopp 

Altoady 

History of the Constitution:

(AFON founded by Lucy McRobert, Pete Gamby, Stephen Moss and Rob Lambert in 2012).

Constitution adopted: 14.01.2018