**New Mills Walkers are Welcome Group Constitution **

**1. Adoption of the Constitution**
1.1 The group and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provision in this constitution.

**2. Name**
2.1 The name of the group shall be “New Mills Walkers are Welcome Group”, and hereafter referred to as “the Group”.

**3. Aim**

3.1 To maintain membership of the Walkers are Welcome Network of Towns.

**4. Objectives**
4.1 To promote healthy recreational walking for the public benefit of local people and visitors.
4.2 To maintain and develop the “Walkers are Welcome” status for New Mills by adhering to the concept and criteria.
4.3 To ensure that New Mills continues to meet the criteria established nationally for “Walkers are Welcome” status.
4.4 To encourage and promote improved facilities for walkers in New Mills, including maintenance of existing footpaths and bridleways, and the creation of new ones, for the benefit of local people and visitors.
4.5 To act in partnership with the community, business, relevant groups, and local authorities to achieve these aims.

**5. Powers**
5.1 In addition to any other powers they have, the Group may exercise any of the following powers in order to further the objectives (but not for any other purpose):
• raise funds, receive grants and donations
• employ paid staff or recruit volunteers as decided by the group
• receive contributions through a membership fee as determined by the group
• apply funds to carry out the work of the Group
• work in partnership with different organisations with similar objectives
• do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the objectives

**6. Membership**
6.1 Membership of the Group shall be open to all local residents and businesses who support the objectives of the Group and who in the opinion of the Group demonstrate appropriateness to be members.

6.2 The group shall nominate persons responsible for Finance and keeping appropriate records, and inform the National Walkers are Welcome Network of the name and contact details of the Responsible Person for communications with the Network.

6.3 The Group operates in accordance with the Walkers are Welcome Network of Towns Equal Opportunities Policy and encourages members of the Group to be open and accessible to all in all matters pertaining to “Walkers are “Welcome”.

**7. Income and Property**
7.1 All income and property of the Group shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objectives.

**8. Meetings**
8.1 A General meeting shall be held not less than once every 15 months and not more than once a year.
8.2 At least 14 days notice shall be given, unless otherwise agreed by all members.
8.3 The notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting, and general nature of the meeting.

8.4. The Group shall present the annual report and accounts.
8.5 Other meetings shall be held during the year to maintain progress towards the group’s objectives.

8.6 Each meeting should consist of at least 4 members of the group, one of which must be the chair or nominated deputy and the business of the meeting recorded and circulated.

8.7 A Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (the officers of the Group) will be nominated and elected from within the Group at an AGM. Officers of the Group will hold post for up to 3 years, and may stand for re-election at the end of their term in office.

8.8 All meetings to be open to anyone who wishes to attend, unless previously decided by the Group to be closed. General Public Attendees at any meeting shall be non-voting.

**9. Accounts**.
9.2 The Treasurer shall keep proper financial records and shall report regularly to the Executive Committee.
9.3 Accounts shall be subject to independent financial review at the end of the financial year.

**10. Bank Accounts**
10.1 All monies received shall be paid into a bank account in the name of the Group.
10.2 Cheques shall be signed by the Treasurer and anyone of the following: Chair, Secretary or one other committee member as agreed by the Executive Committee. Cheques may not be signed by the recipient, or by anyone related to the recipient.

10.3 No signatories shall be related.

**11. Amendments**
11.1 No amendment may be made to alter Clause 4 (Objectives).
11.2 No amendment may be made to Clause 7 (Income and Property).

11.3 This constitution may be amended at a general meeting, with the approval of two thirds of the members present and voting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution setting out the terms of the amendment proposed.
**12. Dissolution**
12.1 If the members of the group decide to dissolve the group, then it shall call a Special General Meeting which can dissolve the Group by a two-thirds majority of the meeting.
12.2 Any money and assets left after satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be applied to purposes in keeping with the objects of the Network.
12.3 All books and documents of the Network shall be placed with such a person or organisation for safe keeping as the meeting shall decide.

12.4 The group will dissolve automatically if it is unable to sustain the status of New Mills as an affiliated Walkers are Welcome town.

Signed: …………………………………………………………. Date: …………………

Sean Whewell Position: Chair

Signed: …………………………………………………………. Date: …………………

Jeanne Daniels Position: Secretary