WDBKA CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The Association will be known as the West Dorset Beekeepers Association and will by this constitution be the West Dorset branch of the Dorset County Beekeepers Association.

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Association shall be based on those laid down in the Dorset County Beekeepers Association constitution. These are to promote the interest of its members and the public in honeybees and other pollinators, to disseminate knowledge. To educate and teach the art of ethical and sustainable beekeeping, its science, craft and practice and to further interest and skill in beekeeping .
The Association will be responsible for administration of funds for these purposes.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all those with interest and wishing to participate in beekeeping.
Membership fees will be set by the Management Committee prior to the end of each financial year and will be payable in advance to run for 12 months from 1st October. Fees to be paid by 31st December failure of which will result in loss of membership.
The subscription fee shall include a premium for insurance against losses due to fouls brood, also for capitation fee to Dorset County beekeepers Association and the British Beekeepers Association.
There shall be two levels of membership.
Full Membership with insurance cover listed above, entitlement to vote at Annual or Special General Meetings
Friends Membership at a reduced subscription rate to be set annually at the AGM. Friends will be open to those with an interest in beekeeping but not keeping bees and those who pay County and BBKA capitation through another association. Friends will not benefit from the insurance scheme, may not vote at any meetings and may not serve on the committee. They may attend functions and receive the WDBKA newsletter and correspondence.

4. FINANCE

The financial year shall run from 1st October to 30th September.
Annual accounts shall be audited and agreed at the Annual General Meeting.

5. ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Association shall be undertaken by a Management Committee. This will comprise of Chairman, General Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary (the Officers) and up to six general committee members. A Vice Chairman may be appointed by the Management Committee at the first meeting following the AGM from the six general members. These positions shall be filled by election at the Annual General Meeting and will be honorary appointments.
The committee shall have the power to fill any vacancy during the year.
Members may be co-opted for specific purpose to the committee but such members shall have no voting rights at committee meetings.
When a member has served as Chairman for three years they shall not then serve as Chairman for a further two years.

A quorum for the committee shall comprise six committee members one of who must be an officer.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held during November each year. Officers and committee members shall be elected by vote of the fully paid up Association membership present at such meeting. Nominations for all posts shall be submitted to the General Secretary prior to the meeting. Nominations will be allowed at the meeting should none be received prior. All full members shall have one vote per nomination.

The Management Committee and any formed sub-committee shall present a report to the meeting of Association activities. A fully audited set of accounts shall be presented to the meeting for agreement. The meeting shall consider any matter brought before it and listed on a set agenda in accordance with this constitution.

The General Secretary shall give a minimum or 21 days notice in writing of Annual general Meetings and shall produce an agenda.

A Special General Meeting may be called at any time by the Management Committee or by a minimum of 10 fully paid up members. The General Secretary shall give all full members a minimum of 14 days notice in writing of such meeting together with its purpose. Only the matter for which the Special Meeting has been called may be discussed and no other business may be discussed. Full members shall have one vote each at such meetings.

At any meeting, Committee, General or Special the Chairman will be entitled to one vote and a second casting vote.

7. VICE PRESIDENTS

Persons who have rendered distinguished service to the Association may be elected as non executive Vice President. These positions may be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall be held for life unless the Vice President wishes to resign. The position shall hold no special rights or privileges for committee or voting purposes.

8. DELEGATES TO DORSET COUNCIL

Delegates shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in the proportion of one delegate to every 25 members. The General Secretary is an ex officio member of the Council.

9. DISBANDMENT

In the event of the Association being disbanded any funds shall be held in trust by the County Association until such time as the Association is re-formed.

10. CONSTITUTION CHANGES.

Any changes or amendments shall only be made at the AGM. Such amendments shall be submitted to the General Secretary only by full members and a minimum of 35 days notice shall be given by the Secretary to members.

Revised and approved 4th November 2025 at AGM