CONSTITUTION OF DORSET LAKE COMMUNITY

Adopted 30th November 2023

Updated 11th July 2025

1. **Name**

   The name of the Association is Dorset Lake Community (**DLC**).

2. **Area**

   DLC covers the area from the railway line at Whitecliff to the sea at Shore road as set out in the map attached (this whole area is referred to as "**Dorset Lake**" in this constitution).

3. **Objects**

   The objects of the Association are:

   a. To represent and promote the interests and rights of all residents of Dorset Lake;

   b. To promote and protect the natural environment, character and amenities of Dorset Lake;

   c. To help create a sense of community on Dorset Lake;

   d. To advocate for the community's interests including (but not limited to) in respect of undesirable development, tree protection and traffic issues;

   e. To campaign in respect of community issues;

   f. To engage with households, local business and others on key local issues;

   g. To influence the local Council, media and others to consider Dorset Lakes' best interests;

   h. To help plan for the future of Dorset Lake and its community;

   i. To inform members of matters affecting, or likely to affect, Dorset Lake;

j. To act as a catalyst for community action and events; and

k. To do all such things, ancillary to the above, as may seem desirable to DLC.

4. Membership

Membership is open to anyone, wherever they live, with an interest in Dorset Lake and a wish to contribute to protecting and improving the unique beauty, spirit and character of the area as follows:

a. Voting, household membership is available to any member of a household or family who owns or rents property on Dorset Lake irrespective of whether that person lives on Dorset Lake all or some of the time;

b. Each individual household member whose subscription is up to date at the time any vote is held, shall be entitled to one vote;

c. Non-voting, visitor membership is available to any person who loves Dorset Lake but normally lives elsewhere, on such basis as the Committee may determine from time to time;

d. Non-voting business membership is available to any business located in or around Dorset Lake or which otherwise has a connection with Dorset Lake, on such basis as the Committee may determine from time to time;

e. The Committee may, in their sole discretion, admit any other person as non-voting, associate members on such basis as the Committee may determine from time to time;

f. If the Committee so decides:

i. membership will end for any member who dies, fails to pay any membership fees when due after notice under Clause 9 (Subscriptions) or resigns from membership; and

ii. voting membership may become non-voting membership for anyone who was formerly a household member but, in the opinion of the Committee, no longer meets the criteria in paragraph 4 (a) above; and

g. The Committee may decide, by a two thirds majority vote and notice to the affected member, that such member be suspended or have their membership ended for:

   i. bringing DLC into disrepute;

   ii. inappropriate behaviour or behaviour that is otherwise inconsistent with membership of DLC; or

   iii. failure to conduct themselves in a reasonable manner at DLC meetings; and

h. The Committee may refuse to admit any person or business as a member without giving reason for doing so.

5. Equality and Diversity

DLC will value diversity and promote good relations with all members of the Dorset Lake and surrounding community and not discriminate on the grounds of age, disability, race, faith, gender or sexual orientation.

6. The Committee

DLC will form and operate a committee to direct and organise the work, finances and membership of DLC as follows:

a. The Committee shall have a minimum of the following officers: Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer;

b. The Committee shall have the power to appoint if they wish a Vice-Chairperson, Vice-Secretary and Vice-Treasurer;

c. Committee members shall be elected at an Annual General Meeting (**AGM**);

d. At each AGM all committee members shall resign but shall be eligible for re-election (if willing to act);

e. Unless the Chairperson otherwise decides, no person shall be eligible for election to the Committee unless at least seven (7) days prior to the AGM, written notice of such nomination has been given to the

Secretary, except that existing members of the Committee shall be deemed to have been duly nominated without such notice;

f. The Chairperson shall not serve for more than four consecutive years in that capacity (but may continue to serve as a committee member, subject to re-election at AGMs and to paragraph (g) below;

g. No committee member may serve more than six consecutive years in that capacity;

h. The Committee shall have a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of fifteen (15) members at any one time;

i. The Committee may:

   i. appoint sub-committees to carry out the activities of DLC: and

   ii. invite non-Committee members or non-members, for example, Ward Councillors, to attend Committee meetings and undertake specific responsibilities on behalf of the Committee,

   in all cases, on such basis as the Committee may determine from time to time;

j. Any vacancies on the Committee may be filled by co-opting members with full voting rights until the next general meeting or AGM;

k. Committee members shall declare any potential conflict of interest and withdraw from discussion and voting where appropriate;

l. The quorum for Committee meetings shall be five (5) or 50 percent (whichever is the greater) of committee members;

m. The committee has the power to make decisions using electronic media outside of committee meetings on such basis as the chairperson may determine;

n. Unless otherwise specified in these rules, decisions of the Committee will be determined by a simple majority of those Committee members voting and the chairperson shall have a casting vote if equal votes are cast;

o. Committee meetings may be called by the Chairperson and Secretary, or at the request of one third of committee members upon not less than seven (7) days' notice;

p. A minimum of three (3) committee meetings will be held in each calendar year; and

q. The Committee members elected or deemed elected 26th October 2023 and continuing as committee members at the date this constitution is adopted are set out in paragraph 15 (Committee Members as at 26th October 2023).

7. Officers

The following provisions apply in respect of officers of DLC:

a. The Committee shall elect a chairperson (who shall be chairperson of DLC and, subject to paragraph 6 (f), remain such until a new one is elected) and shall appoint a secretary and/or treasurer (the two roles may be combined);

b. All the officers of DLC have a duty to further all the aims of DLC;

c. The secretary shall keep and make available for inspection by a member a record of business transacted at the AGM and each Committee meeting;

d. The secretary shall keep a record of paid up membership of DLC and may delegate that duty to other DLC members; and

e. The treasurer shall be responsible for:

   i. All banking and financial arrangements;
   ii. Keeping proper accounts of income and expenditure;
   iii. Presenting accounts to the Examiner of Accounts (as and if appointed from time to time); and
   iv. Reporting on DLC's financial position to the Committee and AGM.

8. Meetings

The following provisions apply in respect of meetings:

a. An AGM was held on 26th October 2023 and will thereafter be no later than fifteen months after the previous AGM;
b. Not less than fourteen (14) days' notice shall be given to members of the next AGM;
c. A report shall be given at the AGM (except the first AGM) by the Chairperson describing the work of DLC since the previous AGM;
d. An Extraordinary General Meeting ("EGM") shall be called if required by the Committee, or at least 15% of individual household members by written requisition served on the secretary, upon not less than twenty-one (21) days' notice given by the secretary to every member;
e. Any such notice of an EGM shall describe in general terms the main business to be considered at the meeting;
f. At any AGM or EGM, 10% of the household members (individual full members) shall constitute a quorum and, if not present, the meeting shall be adjourned to another day when members present constitute a quorum;
g. Not less than seven (7) days' notice must be given to the secretary of any resolution to be moved at any general meeting unless such resolution is admitted by the chairperson at the meeting;
h. A notice containing all resolutions and nominations to be moved, with the names of those proposing and seconding each resolution shall be kept by the secretary and be available for inspection by any member for not less than seven (7) days before the relevant general meeting;
i. All members shall have the right (subject to control of the chairperson) to speak at any general meeting;
j. All household members (but not visitor, business or associate members) shall have the right to vote on any resolution before a general meeting on a one person, one vote basis provided their subscription fees have been paid up to date at the time the vote is held;
k. Resolutions of any general meeting will be passed by simple majority of those individual household members present and voting unless otherwise specified in these rules;
l. Any member entitled to vote may demand a poll which shall be taken forthwith;
m. Any member entitled to vote may authorise in writing (such authority to be satisfactory to the chairperson) another member to vote on her/his behalf;
n. In addition to votes held at general meetings, the Committee may decide at its discretion to conduct a vote of individual household members by any appropriate means, including postal and/or electronic voting, on such terms and such basis as the Committee may determine;
o. Any vote carried out under paragraph 8 (n) above) will have the same quorum, the same notice requirements, be subject to the same voting

majorities and, if passed, have the same effect as if it were a resolution duly passed at an EGM; and

p. If equal votes on any resolution an annual general meeting or vote under paragraph 8 (o) above are cast, the chairperson shall have a casting vote.

9. Subscriptions

Each member shall pay such entrance fee and annual subscription, if any, as shall be determined by resolution of DLC in general meeting from time to time. The Committee may by resolution expel any member who is in default of paying any applicable subscription upon not less than 30 days' notice.

10. Finance

The finances of DLC shall be managed as follows:

a. The treasurer:

   i. shall have control of funds for DLC and open and maintain a bank account in which such funds, other than those required for immediate expenditure, shall be kept;
   ii. shall be responsible for preparing annual accounts for the Examiner of Accounts; and
   iii. Is authorised to make payments approved by the Committee by cheque, bank transfer or other electronic means;

b. The property and funds of DLC shall be held and administered by the Committee and resolution of the Committee shall be sufficient authority for any payments;

c. The Committee may by resolution from time to time adopt rules authorising specified combinations of officers and members of the Committee to incur expenditure up to specified limits without further Committee approval;

d. The Committee is not authorised to incur any overdraft or other borrowings on behalf of DLC; and

e. The financial year shall end on 31st December each year up to which date any annual statement of accounts and balance sheet shall be submitted for approval at the subsequent AGM.

11. Indemnity

Except such loss as arises from their respective wilful default, the Officers and members of the Committee shall:

a. not be liable for any loss suffered by DLC as a result of the discharge of their respective duties on DLC's behalf; and

b. be entitled to an indemnity out of the assets or liability insurances of DLC for all expenses and other liabilities incurred by them in discharge of those respective duties.

12. Notices

Notices required under these rules shall be given in writing which shall include electronic means such as, without limitation, email, text, WhatsApp or other common means for conveying information determined by the Committee from time to time. Notices given in good faith to contact details such as email addresses, phone numbers or addresses last recorded by the secretary for any member shall be deemed validly given to that member even if that member has changed those contact details or the notice is not received.

13. Changes to Constitution

These rules:

a. replace any previous constitution or rules of DLC or any or its predecessor bodies entirely; and

b. may be varied or added to by resolution of DLC in general meeting passed by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present in person or by proxy in accordance with the voting rules in Clause 8 (Meetings) of which resolution notice has been given in the notice convening the meeting.

14. Dissolution

DLC may be dissolved if:

a. the number of full members at any time falls below twenty (20) and the Committee so resolves; or

b. DLC in general meeting so resolves by a majority of at least two thirds of the household members present in person or by proxy in accordance with the voting rules in Clause 8 (Meetings) of which resolution notice has been given in the notice convening the meeting.

On such dissolution any balance of funds shall be paid to a suitable charity decided upon by the Committee.

15. Committee Members as at 11th July 2025

The members of the Committee are

a. Exec. President: Graham Whitehall
b. Chairperson: Anthony Vickery
c. Vice Chairman: Jon Exton
d. Treasurer: Alasdair Bavister
e. Secretary: [vacant]
f. Member: Elspeth Millar
g. Member: Dianne Singh
h. Member: Mervyn Leonard
i. Member: Pauline Foye

Signed by the Chairman of DLC to record adoption of this constitution for DLC as an unincorporated association at an Annual General Meeting on 11th July 2025:

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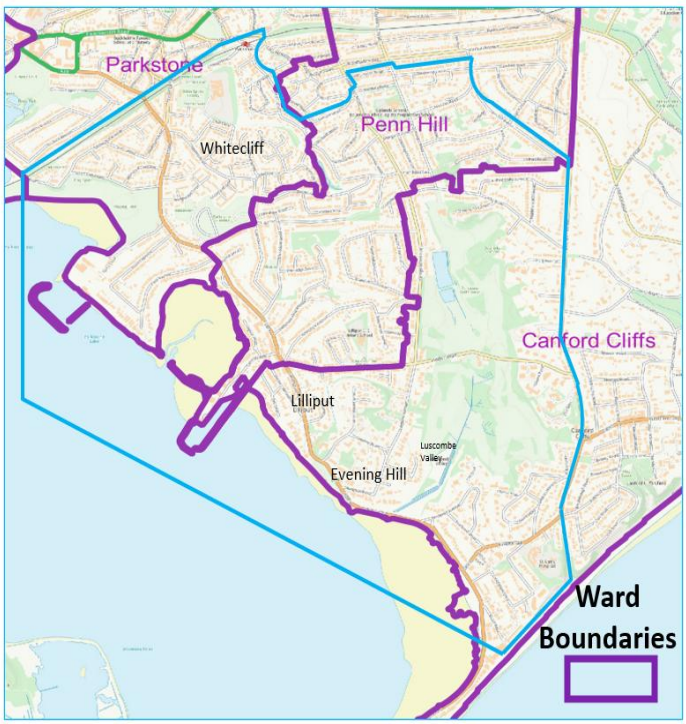
Chairperson Dorset Lake Community

Name: Anthony Vickery BSc, FCA

Address: Apt 3, 328 Sandbanks Road, POOLE, BH14 8HY

Dorset Lake Community Area and Ward Boundaries