

Constitution of Poets for the Planet

(Please note that P4tP is currently an unincorporated association. This constitution would be updated if this status were to change)

1. Name of Organisation

Poets for the Planet

2. Aims

- To use poetry to understand and explore the climate crisis and mass extinction, and to inform and relate that understanding to others through poetry.
- To demand sustainable practices within the publishing industry, arts/poetry/literature organisations and the wider spoken word community, and to insist working with an ecological conscience is an integral practice of contemporary poets.
- To inform poets, producers and organisers at all levels about the ways they can have an impact on the climate crisis.
- To support activists including Extinction Rebellion, Greenpeace and others in ensuring a secure future for our world.

3. Membership

Membership is open to anyone who writes or loves poetry and signs up to our pledge to support the aims of Poets for the Planet.

Pledge: "I have read Poets for the Planet's Mission Statement, and I want to add my voice, to connect with others engaged with climate and ecological emergency through poetry in all its forms."

Membership will begin as soon as the pledge is received and acknowledged. The list of members will be the list of people who have submitted their pledge. There will be no membership fee. Members may resign at any time by withdrawing their pledge.

The General Committee are those who undertake secretarial and organisational duties for Poets for the Planet. They are responsible for decisions regarding constitutional changes, banking, funding and communications. The core members are:

Jacqueline Saphra
Julian Bishop
Ian McLachlan
Jessica Rose
Claire Collison
Caroline Davies
Gale Burns
Susie Campbell
Fiona Moore

The General Committee reserves the right to remove membership from any person who behaves inappropriately in respect to Poets for the Planet, including any breach of the Equalities and Diversity statement.

4. Equalities and Diversity Statement

Poets for the Planet welcomes all members who have submitted a pledge and is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all its activities. Poets for the Planet will promote equality and diversity for all irrespective of: age, disability, ethnicity (including race, colour and nationality), gender, gender reassignment, religion or belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership status.

5. Committee and Post-holders

The business of Poets for the Planet will be carried out by a General Committee which will be open to all members. Details of meetings will be publicised in advance, and meetings will be open to any member who wishes to attend. Where possible, facilities will be made available for members who wish to attend but are unable to attend in person.

The roles of Chair and Secretary will be rotated to volunteers. The role of Treasurer will be filled by a volunteer for the period of a year at a time. The Chair's role is to chair the meetings. The Secretary's role is to publicise agendas, take the minutes and publish them after the meeting.

Minutes will include the date of the next meeting and the name of the person putting together the agenda for the next meeting. Any member can propose items to go on the agenda by contacting the relevant person named in the minutes.

The Treasurer's role is to maintain accounts.

6. Meetings

General meetings will be held throughout the year according to need. The quorum for a General Meeting will be 3 members.

Following the inaugural meeting in May 2019, there will be an Annual General Meeting held every year at a similar time of the year (or within fifteen months of the previous AGM). The quorum for the AGM will be 6 members. The Treasurer will present annual accounts to the AGM each year.

7. Procedure/decision-making

All issues will be discussed openly at the meetings and the meeting will seek to find general agreement that everyone present can agree to. If consensus cannot be reached, a vote will be taken and decided by a simple majority of members present. The Chair will have the casting vote if there are equal votes on either side.

The minutes of each meeting will show which members were present and which members are therefore responsible for any decisions made at that particular meeting (and only those decisions). The same rules will apply to any sub-committee set up by the General Committee.

It will be up to the General Committee to decide if the wider membership should be consulted on any particular issue.

8. Finances

A bank account will be maintained by the Treasurer an ethical bank as agreed by the Committee. There will be at least two signatories on this account (although there may be additional substitute signatories). The signatories will not be related to each other or members of the same household. All payments will be signed by two of the signatories.

Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement provided for each General Meeting. An annual financial statement will be provided for the AGM.

9. Dissolution

Poets for the Planet may be closed down by a majority vote of a General Meeting to call a Special General Meeting for the express purpose of closing down the group. If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and assets, once any outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to Bees for Development (<http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/about-us/>).

All media accounts will be closed and any personal membership information will be destroyed.

10. GDPR statement

Poets for the Planet are committed to ensuring the security and protection of the personal information members have agreed to share with us, and to comply with GDPR regulations.

This constitution was agreed by the General Committee Meeting of Poets for the Planet on:

06/01/2020

Members present: (Please refer to minutes of the meeting)

It was updated and approved by all 9 members of the core group on:

08/10/2024