

Cymdeithas Gwenynwyr Maldwyn
Montgomeryshire Beekeepers Association
Constitution

1. Name

The name of the Association shall be:

Cymdeithas Gwenynwyr Maldwyn

Montgomeryshire BeeKeepers Association

2. Aims and objectives

The aims and objectives of the Association shall be:

- a. To promote good beekeeping husbandry amongst beekeepers by sharing expertise and best practice, through free exchange of information between members, open hive events, the BeeHolder journal, website, social media and guest speakers at meetings.
- b. To participate in the running of the Welsh Beekeepers Association.
- c. To encourage community participation in observing and learning about bees in safety and to develop an appreciation of the value of bees in the environment, through participation in local shows and public events.
- d. To run formal training sessions and provide support for new and potential beekeepers.
- e. To contribute to local and national research in beekeeping and the welfare of honey bees.

3. Powers

In furtherance of the aims and objectives, the Management Committee may exercise its powers:

- a. To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds, the Management Committee shall conform to any requirements of the law.
- b. To buy, sell, take on lease or in exchange any property for the achievement of the objectives and to maintain and equip it for use.
- c. To employ such staff who shall not be members of the Management Committee, or their immediate family members (spouse, partner or joint or respective children), as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the objectives.

- d. To publicise and promote the work of the Association and organise meetings and training courses.
- e. To work with other groups of a similar nature and exchange information, advice and knowledge with them.
- f. To take any form of action that is lawful which is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Association.
- g. To co-opt any additional or replacement members to the committee as deemed necessary to achieve the objectives of the Association

4. Membership

- a. Membership is open to all beekeepers or interested parties
- b. There will be no limit to the number of members.
- c. Prospective members must apply to the Membership Secretary.
- d. Membership will not commence until the appropriate subscription has been received by MBKA.
- e. Registered Membership benefits including insurance policies will apply to one named beekeeper only, to be known as the Registered Member. A person who lives at the same address as a Registered Member may apply for Partner membership. A person under the age of 18 who lives at the same address as a Registered member may apply for Junior membership.
- f. Registered membership benefits will include; invitation to MBKA speaker meetings, open hive events and members only training sessions, the BeeHolder journal, Welsh Beekeepers Association Registered membership and any WBKA Registered member benefits offered by WBKA, and basic Bee Diseases Insurance.
- g. Partner membership benefits will include; invitation to MBKA speaker meetings, open hive events and members only training sessions, WBKA Partner membership and any WBKA Partner membership benefits offered by WBKA.
- h. Junior membership benefits will include; invitation to MBKA speaker meetings, open hive events and members only training sessions, WBKA Junior membership and any WBKA Junior membership benefits offered by WBKA.
- i. The management committee may confer in its absolute discretion honorary membership when appropriate, up to a maximum of 5 honorary members at any one time. Honorary membership will be conferred for a term of 5 years, will be reviewed every 5 years, and may be extended for additional 5 year terms at the discretion of the committee. Honorary membership will include basic Bee Diseases Insurance cover for up to 3 colonies. The Honorary member will be responsible for paying any BDI additional premium required to ensure the Honorary member has BDI cover for

all colonies owned by the Honorary member.

j. All membership fee amounts will be decided by fully-paid members at an annual or extra-general meeting.

k. Membership shall last for one year and may be renewed annually by the payment of subscription. This will be due on January 1st of each year and must be paid in full by March 31st of that year. Failure to do so will be taken by the Management Committee that the person no longer wishes to be a member of the Association.

l. Any member who is deemed by the Management Committee to be acting against the best interests of the Association may be asked to leave and be entitled to a pro-rated refund of any subscription paid. They have a right to know the case against them and to answer the allegations and will have an opportunity to appeal and present their case. The procedure and protocols for dealing with the original complaint shall be established by a sub-committee made up of a minimum of 3 members not involved in the original issue or dispute, appointed by the Management Committee.

5. Management Committee

a. A Management Committee shall be elected at the AGM to conduct the affairs of the Association and shall consist of a chairperson, treasurer, secretary and up to 12 others, who must be at least 18 years of age. In addition, a president may be appointed by the committee.

b. The terms of office shall be for one year but may be re-elected at the Association's AGM.

c. Nominations for officers must be proposed and seconded by fully-paid up members of the association.

6. Officers

The Chairperson: shall preside over all meetings of the Association and all committee meetings. He/she shall be responsible for guiding the activities of the Association in accordance with its rules and general policy as expressed by the majority of the Association members. He/she may represent the Association at meetings of other organisations and affiliated bodies or appoint deputies to do so.

The Treasurer shall keep the accounts and shall have custody of and be responsible for the funds of the Association. These funds shall be held in the name of the Association, in a bank or banks approved by the Management Committee. The treasurer shall prepare an annual statement of accounts and a balance sheet which shall be submitted to the members at the AGM.

The Secretary: will be responsible for the organisation of meetings of the Management Committee and the Association, the recording of the minutes at committee meetings, the AGM and a Special General Meeting (SGM). The secretary will also be responsible for all correspondence relating to the general

business of the Association.

7. Meetings

a. The Management Committee shall meet not less than once every three months. Meetings shall enable the Association to discuss actions and monitor progress to date, and to consider future developments.

b. All members shall be given at least 14 days' notice of when a meeting is due to take place, unless it is deemed as an emergency.

c. Two thirds of the committee members must be present in order for a meeting to take place.

d. It shall be the responsibility of the chairperson to chair all meetings or a designated deputy in his/her place. All meetings must be minuted and accessible to interested parties.

e. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) shall be held no later than 6 months after the end of the financial year. The secretary shall give all members at least 20 days' notice of the meeting. Such notice shall specify the business to be transacted at the meeting, and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

f. All registered and partner members who have paid the membership fee in full by the AGM are entitled to vote at the AGM. Honorary members are also entitled to vote at the AGM. Voting shall be made by a show of hands on a majority basis. In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson or appointed deputy shall make the final decision. At an AGM, 10% of members shall form a quorum.

g. The Management Committee shall call a Special General Meeting if requested in writing by no less than 10% of the members of the Association. This figure should be clearly stated in communications about the SGM. Such request shall specify the business it is desired to transact. A SGM shall be held not more than 30 days after the receipt by the Secretary of the request to hold it. At a SGM, 20% of members shall form a quorum.

h. No member shall carry out any business in the name of the Association, except with the permission of the Management Committee.

i. All conflicts of interest must be announced at the beginning of a meeting, or during the meeting if it occurs. The person with the conflict of interest should leave the room while the subject is discussed.

8. Finance

a. Any money acquired by the Association including donations, contributions and bequests shall be paid into an account operated by the management committee in the name of Montgomeryshire Beekeepers Association. All funds must be applied to the objectives of the Association and for no other purpose.

b. All cheques, other forms of payment, authorisations, mandates and other steps whatever needed to operate the Association bank account shall be signed or authorised in an appropriate manner by at least two of the committee members, who should not be immediate family (spouse, partner or joint or respective children).

c. Financial or legal liability incurred in the rightful exercise of their office shall not be the personal liability of the management committee but shall be the responsibility of the Association as a whole if voted for at the AGM.

d. Any income or expenditure shall be the responsibility of the management committee which will be accountable to ensure funds are utilised effectively and that the Association stays within budget. Official accounts shall be maintained and will be examined annually by an independent capable person who is not a member of the Association

e. An annual finance report shall be presented at the AGM.

f. The Association's accounting year shall run from January 1st to December 31st.

9. Complaints policy

Montgomeryshire Beekeepers Association is committed to listening, learning and improving what we do through constructive feedback. Any complaint or expression of dissatisfaction about the management committee's/association's services or decisions should be addressed initially to the Chair and Vice Chair of Montgomeryshire Beekeepers Association. Any Complaint will be treated in confidence and we aim to resolve it quickly, fairly and transparently. A full policy document is appended to this constitution. (See Appendix 1)

10. Alteration of the constitution

a. Any changes to this constitution must be agreed by a majority vote at the AGM or SGM.

b. Amendments to this constitution must be conveyed to the secretary formally in writing. The secretary and other officers shall then decide on the date of the SGM to discuss such proposals, giving members at least four weeks' notice.

c. Every member of the Association shall be furnished with a copy of the constitution on request.

11. Dissolution of the Association

a. The Association may be dissolved if deemed necessary by the members in a majority vote at the AGM or at a SGM specially summoned for that purpose.

b. Any assets or remaining funds after debts have been paid shall be transferred to another local or national beekeeping Association at the discretion of the management committee.

12. Review of the constitution:

The constitution shall be reviewed every 3 years by the management committee and approved by members at the AGM.

This constitution was adopted at the AGM at Plas Dolerw, Newtown on 17th February 2026

Review date: 2029

Signatures:

Chairperson.....

Treasurer.....

Secretary.....

Member.....

Member.....