



WEST MIDLANDS PENSIONERS' CONVENTION CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS (2022)

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1. NAME. The name shall be the West Midland Pensioners Convention, hereafter called the WMPC.

2. OBJECTIVES. The objectives of the WMPC shall be:

- a). To promote and campaign for the National Pensioners' Convention "Declaration of Intent" as a non-party-political campaigning organisation that seeks to improve the living standards of all pensioners.
- b). To provide a co-ordinating organisation to all pensioner groups within the West Midlands who support the "Declaration of Intent" and unite them in voluntary activity.
- c). Encourage the development of educational and other opportunities to enable older people to contribute to community activities within the West Midlands.
- d). Make representation to the Government, Members of Parliament, Members of the European Parliament, Health Authorities, Local Authorities and other statutory and voluntary bodies dealing with matters affecting pensioners and older people.
- e). Act at all times without discrimination on grounds of Age, Disability, Gender Re-assignment, Marriage or Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion and Belief, Sex or Sexual Orientation.
- f). Affiliate and take part in all activities of the National Pensioners' Convention.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- a). Application for membership of the WMPC shall be open to any individual and any organisation of pensioners, retired or older people within the West Midlands subject to acceptance by the Regional Council, Individual members may be accepted in accordance with Section 4 below.
- b). The Regional Council may at its discretion award honorary life membership to any individual who is deemed to be worthy of this honour.

4. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

- a). Membership is open to any individual aged 55 or over, living in the area of benefit who wishes to support the aims of the WMPC and whose membership is approved by the Executive Committee.
- b). Individual members will be organised into an Individual Members Group within the Regions and will be supported by the Regional/Assistant Regional Secretary to meet to discuss issues important to them.
- c). The Individual Members' Group should meet at least once a year to elect a Chair and to nominate up to a maximum of (3) three Regional Council delegates or (1) one per fifteen individual members up to the maximum delegates with voting rights. The Chair is responsible for reporting to the individual members' meetings. Individual Members' Groups will decide on the frequency of their meetings throughout the rest of the year.

d). Individual members are entitled to attend Regional Council Meetings, but only the maximum of (3) three delegates may vote. Every authorised delegate has one vote at Regional Council Meetings.

e). The Individual Members' Group will be able to nominate and be nominated for officer and WMPC Executive Member positions.

f). Individual Members who are also authorised delegates from affiliated branches and affiliated organisations cannot hold office in the Individual Members' Group or be nominated as an authorised delegate.

5. STRUCTURE

a). The WMPC shall consist of affiliated branches and organisations and will endeavour to draw them together under the banner of the National Pensioners' Convention.

b). The WMPC shall be governed by a Regional Council which comprises delegates from affiliated branches and affiliated organisations.

c). The WMPC shall consist of affiliated branches and affiliated organisations within the counties of Herefordshire, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

6. REPRESENTATION

a). Branches and organisations affiliated to the WMPC shall be allowed representation, with voting rights, on the Regional Council on the basis of (2) two delegates for the first (50) fifty members or part thereof and (3) three delegates on the basis of (51) fifty-one members or more.

b). A deputy authorised by the affiliate branch or affiliated organisation may attend in place of a delegate.

c). All delegates shall be elected by their affiliated branches/organisations annually, and the name and address shall be notified in writing to the Regional Secretary.

7. CONTRIBUTIONS

Each affiliated branch, affiliated organisation and individual member shall pay an annual fee at a rate which shall be decided by the Annual General Meeting and shall be paid by the following 28th February each year.

8. MEETINGS

a). The Regional Council will normally meet monthly, with the exception of January and August, i.e. 10 times a year.

b). Additional meetings may be called as necessary on the direction of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Executive Committee or by a requisition signed by at least (15) fifteen members of the Regional Council, representing at least (5) affiliated branches or affiliated organisations.

9. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

a). Composition

The Executive Committee (EC) shall consist of the Officers as set out in 11 below, plus 6 members to be elected by the Annual General Meeting; at least (3) three of whom shall be women.

b). Powers

1. The EC shall have the power to conduct general business of the WMPC between meetings of the Regional Council.

2. Any decisions taken by the EC shall be subject to ratification by the Regional Council, except any matter of an emergency nature which has to be dealt with speedily. Any items thus dealt with shall be reported to and ratified by the Regional Council.

3. The EC shall act as the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the WMPC. In particular the EC will:

a). Approve the Annual Budget.

b). receive a budgetary report at each meeting.

c). Have the power of virement between different budgetary head of expenditure if deemed necessary.

4. Standing and Special Committees and Working Parties may be formed by the EC to carry out specific tasks or conduct special enquiries. Every such committee shall report via the EC to the Regional Council. Unless otherwise determined, the Chair, Vice Chair, Regional Secretary, and Treasurer will be ex-officio members of all Committees, Sub-Committees and Working Parties that may be formed from time to time.

5. The EC will normally meet each month. Additional meetings may be called as deemed necessary by the Committee or at the direction of the Regional Chair.

10. QUORUM

a). The quorum for the Regional Council shall be (15) fifteen members of which (3) three must be Officers.

b). The quorum of the Executive Committee shall be (5) five members at least (3) three of whom must be Officers.

c). The quorum for the Annual General Meeting and Extraordinary General Meeting shall be (20) twenty members.

11. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

a). The Annual General Meeting shall take place in April.

b). An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Executive Committee or by a requisition submitted to the Regional Secretary giving reasons and signed by at least (20) twenty members of the Regional Council representing at least (5) five affiliated branches or affiliated organisations.

c). Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting shall be sent to all Regional Council members within (28) twenty-eight days of the requisition or authorisation.

d). All Officers shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but will be eligible to stand for re-election.

e). Every person ceasing to hold office shall hand over to their successor or to the Executive Committee any property belonging to the WMPC.

f). The following officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting:-

Chair, Vice Chair

Secretary, Assistant Secretary

Treasurer, Fundraiser

Press and Campaign Officer, Transport Group Secretary

IT Manager, Minutes Secretary

Women's Officer, Membership Secretary

g). Casual Vacancies

In the event that any of the above posts become vacant the Executive Committee shall make a nomination to the Regional Council to fill the post for the remainder of the year.

h) The closing date for nominations shall normally be the last day of February of the year of the election, but late nominations may be accepted at the discretion of the Executive Committee. In the event that no nomination is received beforehand; nominations may be made by those present at the Annual General Meeting.

i). (2) Two Scrutineers shall be elected to examine the Regional Accounts and to report the results of their examination to members at the Annual General Meeting. They shall not hold any other office.

12. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICERS

These are set out in the attached Annex to this Constitution.

13. ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL PENSIONERS' CONVENTION (NPC)

The Regional Council shall elect from its members:

a) Three (3) delegates to the National Council of the NPC.

b). One (1) delegate to the National Executive Committee of the NPC.

c). Election of such delegates will take place annually at the first Regional Council meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

d). Up to (4) four delegates to the Biennial Delegate Conference (BDC) of the NPC.

Election of these delegates will take place biennially after the Annual General Meeting before the BDC. All delegates so appointed will report back to the Regional Council.

14. FINANCE

a). The bank accounts shall be operated in the name of the WMPC and kept at a bank recommended by the Executive Committee and agreed by the Regional Council.

b). All cheques issued must be signed by any (2) two of the agreed (4) four signatories.

c). Payment of out-of-pocket expenses may be made to any delegated representative at a rate agreed to by the Regional Council.

d). Provision shall be made for the Regional Secretary to hold an impress account for payment of incidental expenses.

15. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

a). The Constitution, or Standing Orders may not be amended except at an Annual General Meeting, or Extraordinary General Meeting called for the purpose.

b). Any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders intended for debate at an Annual General Meeting must be notified to the Regional Secretary by the (31st) thirty-first January of the relevant year.

c). Notice of the Annual General Meeting, together with such proposed amendments, shall be sent to all Regional Council members by the (28TH) twenty-eighth February of the same year.

d). Any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Standing Orders intended for debate at an Extraordinary Meeting must be authorised by a requisition signed by at least (20) twenty members of the Regional Council.

e). Notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting, together with such proposed amendments shall be sent to all the Regional Council members within (28) twenty-eight days of receipt of the authorisation or requisition.

f). To be carried, two-thirds of the votes cast must be in favour of any amendment.

16. DISSOLUTION

a). If at any time the dissolution of the West Midlands Pensioners' Convention is called for and carried by a two-thirds majority of those voting at the Regional Council, then a Special General Meeting shall be called.

b). (4) Four weeks' notice of such Special General Meeting, and the reasons for the proposed dissolution, shall be given in writing to all Regional Council Members, WMPC affiliated branches and affiliated organisations.

c) The proposal to dissolve the West Midlands Pensioners' Convention must be carried by a two-thirds majority of those voting at the Special General Meeting.

c). In the event that the proposal to dissolve the WMPC is carried, then the Special General Meeting will make all necessary decisions regarding the dispersal of the remaining funds and assets.

(Revised at the WMPC 2022 AGM – 14 April 2022)