

THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALTA

THE STATUTE

AS APPROVED BY THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF 24.02.2024

1. TITLE

1.1 The Association shall be named THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION OF MALTA, herein called "the Association".

2. ADDRESS

2.1 The address of the Association shall be Room 83, National Swimming Pool Complex, Triq Maria Teresa Spinelli, Il-Gzira, or any such venue that the Committee shall opportunely determine.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The Association shall be an apolitical, non-profit, voluntary, non-governmental organisation set up to promote the following aims and objectives:

3.1.1 To enhance and protect the natural beauty and cultural heritage to be found in the countryside of the Maltese Islands,

3.1.2 To establish and to preserve the right of access to the open countryside and to the coastal zones,

3.1.3 To identify and to ensure the maintenance of a network of public footpaths in the open countryside,

3.1.4 To promote rambling activities as a means of education on the Maltese natural and cultural endowment and as a means of a healthy lifestyle.

3.1.5 To organise walks and other educational activities and to disseminate among civil society information leading to a greater respect of the countryside;

3.1.6 To make representations to competent authorities and institutions in order to ensure that the aims and objectives of the Associations are pursued and that laws are enforced with respect to citizens' rights in accordance with the Environmental standards operative in the European Union.

3.1.7 To encourage and organise exchanges with foreign ramblers in order to strengthen mutual understanding internationally.

4. MEMBERSHIP

4.1 All persons believing in the objectives of the Association may become full members

on payment of the membership fee. Full membership entitles one to:

- (i) participate in the activities organised by the Association;
- (ii) receive publications and other communications issued by the Association;
- (iii) the right to nominate candidates for, to vote at, and to contest, the election for the Committee during the General Meetings, on condition that his membership had been fully endorsed for at least four months.

4.2 In addition to full membership, the committee may set up one or more schemes for associate membership. Associate members shall pay a fee to support the work of the association and are entitled to receive the communications issued by the association.

4.3 Full and associate members who fail to pay their annual subscription after two reminders will forfeit their membership.

4.4 The Committee has the right to withdraw or withhold the membership of an applicant; however the applicant will have the right to appeal to the General Meeting for reinstatement. In this case, a two thirds majority of members present at the General Meeting is required to over-rule the decision of the committee.

5. THE COMMITTEE

5.1 Composition

5.1.1 Seven members shall be elected to the committee by the members of the Association during the AGM.

5.1.2 If the candidates standing for election are seven or less the members nominated will be automatically declared elected.

5.1.3 Elections of the Committee members will be held every three (3) years during the Annual General Meeting. Nomination of candidates must be received by the Secretary at least one week prior to the AGM date. Every nomination must be signed by a proposer, a person who seconds it, and by the nominee himself signifying his acceptance; and all three must be paid-up members. During the AGM the Secretary shall state the number of positions that still have to be filled and will call for more nominations from the floor. If more nominations than required are received, an election will be held to fill such remaining positions.

5.1.4 The committee members shall assign among themselves the following roles:

President and Vice-President,
Secretary and Assistant Secretary,
Treasurer,
PRO and
Walks Coordinator.

These may be supplemented with other roles at the discretion of the committee.

5.1.5 A vacancy of an elected candidate will be filled by the candidate with the next highest number of votes obtained in the last election.

5.1.6 If the current number of committee members is even, the quorum for a committee shall be half the current number of committee members plus one. If the number is odd, then it shall be the next whole number greater than half the current number of committee members.

5.1.7 No person who holds a position on an administrative or executive committee of another environmental organisation or a political party may be nominated for election or allowed to become a committee member. Any existing committee member will forfeit membership on the Committee automatically if he contests the election of such committees.

5.1.8 Any committee member who is, or intends to be, in close collaboration with any Member of Parliament (MP) or any Member of the European Parliament (MEP) or any of the political parties is obliged to inform the Committee with immediate effect. The Committee is empowered to decide at its discretion by majority vote, where in its opinion there is a clear conflict of interest, whether the member concerned should be disqualified from retaining his/her place on the committee.

5.1.9 Committee meetings may be convened as frequently as deemed necessary, but at least once every two months. Prior notice and agenda will be circulated to all members of the committee at least three days in advance.

5.1.10 Any two members may call a meeting by written request to the Secretary, who will convene the meeting within ten days.

5.2 AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

5.2.1 The Committee shall have the authority to co-opt members into the Committee as necessary to fulfil the needs and objectives of the Association. Co-opted members shall enjoy the same rights as elected members.

5.2.2 The committee will have the authority to appoint sub-committees with such remits as may be established.

5.2.3 The Committee shall have the authority and the responsibility to administer and manage the Association, to formulate policy and procedures, to determine membership fees, and to ensure that all members will pursue the Aims and Objectives of the Association effectively. The Committee shall also be empowered to establish foundations or similar entities for the further promotion of the Association's aims and objectives.

5.2.4 The Committee shall be authorised to deregister/register the Association as a legal person or to enroll the Association as the Committee deems fit when and where applicable. Accordingly the Committee shall be authorised to apply for grants, sponsorships or other financial aid or such exemptions, privileges or other entitlements that the Government or other institutions may make available to voluntary organizations from time to time.

5.2.5 A Committee member who fails to attend two consecutive meetings without justification will be asked whether s/he intends to keep his place on the committee. S/he will be given another

chance to attend the next meeting. The Committee will take a vote on his status if s/he again fails to attend in as much as the Committee needs committed persons to carry on its duties.

5.2.6 The committee shall have the authority to take legal action over any matter which it deems necessary.

5.3 REPRESENTATION

5.3.1 The President of the Association, or if so delegated by him the Secretary, shall act as Administrator for the intents and purposes of the Voluntary Organisations Act. The Administrator shall be vested with the legal and judicial representation of the Association. However the committee may appoint any other one of its members to act in lieu of the two officers indicated.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

6.1 The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be convened on a day during February or March of every year with the following Agenda:

- i) President's address
- ii) Annual Administrative Report for the previous year ending 31st January.
- iii) Annual Statement of Account and Auditors' Report
- iv) Amendments to the statute, if any
- v) Appointment of Auditors for the current year
- vi) Every three years, hold the election by secret ballot for the members of a new committee. In this event two election commissioners will be appointed to conduct the election.
- vii) Other matters

6.2 The Secretary will call an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING within one month from the date of a written request by at least fifty paid up members of the Association to consider those matters raised in the request. The relative notice will be circulated to all members of the Association at least one week before the meeting.

6.3 Half the number of the paid-up members will form a quorum for any General Meeting. The quorum will fall to 25 members after the lapse of 15 minutes from the publicised time of the meeting.

6.4 The General Meeting may appoint not more than two Honorary Presidents, and Honorary Members by simple majority of members present.

7. AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTE

7.1 No articles of the present statute shall be altered or rescinded, nor any new ones incorporated, unless notice of details of such alterations is received by the Secretary thirty days prior to the date of a General Meeting. The Secretary shall circulate such detailed notice to all members of the Association twenty days before the date. A two thirds majority of voting members present at the General Meeting will carry the amendment/s through.

8. DISSOLUTION

8.1 The Association will be dissolved only by an Extraordinary General Meeting especially convened for this purpose by a motion which is not opposed by any one of the members present.

8.2 In case of dissolution of the Association all the net assets pertaining to it shall be transferred to the Environmental Non-government Organisation/s whose aims are closest to those of the Association. The specific organization/s will be determined by a simple majority of those present at the Extraordinary General Meeting.

9. INTERPRETATION

9.1 In this statute the masculine gender shall include the feminine.