

# TAUNTON GAY GROUP (TGG)

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. TITLE

The Club shall be called Taunton Gay Group (TGG) thereafter referred to as the Club.

### 2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 To provide a safe meeting group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered or non-binary people and inclusive of all people who identify with any of the terms usually included under the 'LGBT+' umbrella.

2.2 To provide opportunities for LGBT+ people to meet, socialise and network with peers, to facilitate reduced isolation, increased friendships, and better health and wellbeing for individuals.

2.3 To promote the principle that LGBT+ people are entitled to lead their lives openly without fear, prejudice or hostility and feel part of their community.

2.4 To work towards the positive representation in education and media of the lives of LGBT+ people, and to support and encourage participation in local initiatives, for example Pride events, national LGBT+ awareness calendar dates and engagement in services accessed by the community.

2.5 To promote pride and mutual support within the LGBT+ community primarily in the Taunton area, but be inclusive to people from across the county of Somerset or the wider Southwest who wish to socialise with other LGBT+ people.

2.6 To encourage participation in variety of social, cultural, recreational, and educational events to benefit the LGBT+ community in the Taunton area and the county of Somerset, sharing opportunities to attend both Club organised events and those organised by other LGBT+ related groups or organisations with related aims.

2.7 To provide a knowledge base of LGBT+ information and links via the [club website](#), so that individuals can be signposted to appropriate organisations and

services should they wish to access relevant support or services for additional social, emotional or other health and wellbeing needs.

2.8 To work with other community groups to ensure that the needs of local LGBT+ people are taken into account at all levels, and present a strong community voice, supporting each other for benefit of all LGBT+ people and sharing awareness of the different opportunities offered by other groups.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership/attendance of the club is open to all LGBT+ people without registration or fee to reduce any barriers to attend events. LGBT+ allies are also welcome to attend (e.g. if LGBT+ people wish to bring friends who do not identify as LGBT+).

### **4. MANAGEMENT**

#### Officers

The officers of the Club shall be as follows:

Chairperson: Stephen Bennett-Troake

Vice Chairperson: Aaron Bisgrove

Secretary: Aaron Bisgrove

Treasurer: Ali Ryan

Additional members may be co-opted as and when required

#### Election of officers

All officers shall be elected at the AGM of the Club, from and by, members of the Club. All officers are elected for a period of one year, but may be re-elected to the same office or another office the following year. Each nominee needs to be proposed and seconded.

#### General committee

The affairs of the Club shall be controlled by a General Committee consisting of three officers and at least one other ordinary member. This Committee shall meet at agreed intervals but in any case no less than three times per year.

Quorum for General Committee meetings shall be four.

### **5. FINANCE**

The Club shall be financed by members' donations and other suitable means. An accurate account of the finances of the Club shall be kept by the Treasurer and

shall be available for all reasonable inspection and examined by an independent person before the AGM.

The following Officers shall be authorised to sign cheques on behalf of the Club: Treasurer, Chairperson and Secretary. Cheques drawn on the Club's account shall be signed by any two of the above officers.

## **6. INSURANCE**

The General Committee shall ensure that the Club is adequately insured to cover equipment and public liability as required.

## **7. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

The AGM of the Club shall be held not later than the end of March each year. At this meeting the following business shall take place:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of preceding AGM
3. Matters arising from 2.
4. Chairperson's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Proposed changes to Constitution
7. Election of committee
8. Appointment of examiner
9. Subscriptions
10. Any other business

Notice of the AGM shall be given at least 28 days beforehand, with all items of business identified 14 days before the meeting or at the discretion of the Chairperson. A quorum for the AGM shall be one third of the members. Each member of the Club shall receive a copy of the minutes of the preceding AGM, a statement of accounts and an agenda (including details of any proposed changes to the constitution and any items of any other business).

## **8. EMERGENCY GENERAL MEETING**

An EGM can be called as the General Committee may determine, or by written request to the Secretary by one third of the members of the Club. On receipt of the request the Secretary shall make arrangements for such a meeting within 28 days and give Club members 7 days notice of the meeting and the agenda. Only items on the agenda may be discussed at the meeting.

## **9. PROCEDURES**

### Voting

Voting at all meetings (excepting constitutional matters) shall be carried by a simple majority vote of those members of the club present at the meeting. In the event of a drawn ballot, the Chairperson has the right to a second casting vote.

### Motions

Motions to any General Meeting must be received by the Secretary at least one day prior to the business of the meeting being posted (i.e. 15 days before the AGM or 28 days prior to a EGM).

All motions must be proposed and seconded by members of the club.

## **10. MISCONDUCT**

Any member can be expelled from the club by the General Committee if the members conduct is considered to be against the best interest of the club. Any such member has a right to appear before the General Committee before any decision is made.

## **11. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS**

No alteration shall be made to these rules except at an AGM or EGM of the club. Any alteration must be proposed and seconded by paid up members of the Club and supported by at least two thirds of the members present at the meeting.

## **12. DISSOLUTION**

The club shall be dissolved upon a resolution to that effect being passed by at least two thirds of the voting members at an AGM or EGM. Following this resolution the officers of the Club shall proceed to realise the property of the Club and discharge all debts and liabilities.

After discharging all debts and liabilities any remaining assets shall be donated to another voluntary organisation with the same or similar aims and objectives.