

Shearling Community Supported Agriculture Partnership

Constitution Adopted on 14 October 2009

- 1. Name.** The name of the Group will be Shearling CSA
- 2. Aims.** The aims of the Group are:
 - i. To establish a relationship of mutual support between the farmers growing shearling meat and the people who buy it.
 - ii. To strengthen the local economy by creating new and secure markets for shearling meat reared on the North Yorkshire Moors.
 - iii. To increase our understanding of links between the food we eat, the environmental consequences of our purchasing decisions and what has created and maintained the traditional landscape of the North Yorkshire Moors.
 - iv. To increase community cohesion through celebrating our traditional food and farming heritage.
- 3. Abilities.** In order to further its aims, the Group will be able to:
 - i. Raise funds and receive contributions by subscriptions, donations and other means.
 - ii. Recruit members.
 - iii. Employ paid or unpaid agents, staff or advisers on such terms and conditions of employment as the Group will determine.
 - iv. Co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies, businesses and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Group's aims or of similar purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
 - v. Do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the aims of the Group.
- 4. Membership.** Membership will be open to any individual who agrees with the aims of the Shearling CSA and pays the current subscription set by a meeting of the Group. Furthermore, a farmer representing the suppliers of shearling meat to the Group will be a member of the Group. Only members may participate in decision-making.
- 5. Officers.** The officers of the Group will include a Facilitator, Co-ordinator and Treasurer. The Officers will be appointed by the meeting at which this constitution is adopted and will stand until the first Annual General Meeting (AGM). Thereafter, officers will be chosen by the AGM. All officers will retire from office at the AGM but may be requested to take office again at the same AGM.

The Facilitator will chair meetings and support the flow of communication within the Group. The Co-ordinator will keep records of meetings and give members notice of the Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meetings.

The Treasurer will hold details of the membership and keep an account of all income and expenditure. A record of the accounts will be presented at the AGM.

If any officer resigns between AGMs, their replacement will be appointed at any ordinary meeting of the Group.
- 6. Ordinary Meetings.** Ordinary meetings of the Group will be held as required by the members. A record of the meetings will be kept and will be made available to members. Five members will be quorum. Decisions will normally be made by consensus. If an agreement cannot be reached by consensus, then that decision will be postponed until a further meeting. If a decision cannot be reached by consensus at this meeting, that decision will then be made by a majority of at least two-thirds of the members attending

the meeting, with each member present having one vote.

An ordinary meeting may resolve to terminate the membership of an individual. This decision must be communicated to the member, who must be given the opportunity to put their case to a subsequent meeting. Termination of membership will not have effect until the decision is ratified at this subsequent meeting.

7. Annual General Meeting. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held every year in October, or as soon as possible thereafter. The Co-ordinator will give all members at least 14 days notice of an AGM. A report of the year's activities and the accounts will be presented. Nominations for officers will be made at the AGM. Officers will normally be chosen by consensus. If an agreement cannot be reached by consensus, a decision will be made on a show of hands by a simple majority vote, with each individual member present having one vote. Officers will serve from the end of the AGM to the following AGM. All members will be entitled to attend the AGM.

8. Special General Meetings. A Special General Meeting may be called at any time if five members give a request to call one to the Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator must give at least 14 days notice of a Special General Meeting to all members.

9. An accidental omission to give a member notice of a meeting does not invalidate that meeting.

10. Finance. There will be a bank account in the name of the Group. Three members will be authorised by the AGM, or in exceptional circumstances by an ordinary meeting, to sign cheques. Each cheque must be signed by two of these signatories. The income and property of the Group will be applied only in furtherance of the aims of the Group.

11. Application of surplus. The Shearling CSA will not trade for profit. Any surplus of the Shearling CSA will be used as a general reserve for the continuation and development of the Shearling CSA.

12. Amendments. The constitution may be amended at an AGM or a Special General Meeting, provided that at least 14 days notice of the amendments has been communicated to all members. Decisions on amendments will normally be made by consensus. If an agreement cannot be reached by consensus, then that decision will be postponed until a further meeting. If a decision cannot be reached by consensus at this meeting, the decision will then be made by a majority of at least two thirds of the members attending the meeting, with each member present having one vote.

12. Dissolution. A decision to dissolve the Group may be made at a General Meeting provided that at least 14 days notice of this resolution has been communicated to all members. In the event of dissolution, any assets remaining after the clearing of all debts and liabilities will be given to a group having similar or compatible aims.

This constitution was approved by the officers on:

Facilitator

Co-ordinator

Treasurer