

## Morvern Deer Management Group

At the AGM on the 31 October 2023 the following Constitution was adopted with immediate effect.

This supersedes and replaces the constitution adopted at the AGM held on the 3 November 2022.

This page is not part of the Constitution.

FOURTH REVISION  
MORVERN DEER MANAGEMENT GROUP CONSTITUTION

1. The group shall be known as the Morvern Deer Management Group (MDMG) and shall cover the whole area of the Morvern peninsula bounded by the A861 public road between Carnoch and Inversanda to the north and the sea on all other sides.

2. Functions and Objectives

The main objectives of the Group shall be ensuring the well-being of the deer population of Morvern, protecting the environment and biodiversity, and helping to achieve a sustainable and economically viable peninsula while taking account of the public interest and those of other stakeholders. With this in mind, the Functions of the Group shall be to work together under the Code of Practice on Deer Management, the ADMG Principles of Collaboration, the ADMG 'Benchmark', and the SNH 'Public Interest Objectives' to:

- a. Work collaboratively to develop, operate and periodically review deer management plans for individual land holdings and a coordinated plan for the whole peninsula area under its control, focusing in particular on deer welfare, sustainable land use, and biodiversity.
- b. Assist in resolving any differences in deer management objectives within the group area and collaborate with a view to agreeing on land holding and overall cull levels annually.
- c. Carry out census work including, where possible, an annual deer count of the group area, leading to appropriate group and estate level culling policies.
- d. Encourage estate owners and members to keep such detailed records and carry out such practices as are required by statute and as are recommended from time to time by NatureScot Wildlife Operations and/or ADMG.
- e. Act as a forum for discussion on deer management subjects and generally as a discussion group for neighbours within the peninsula, where issues can be raised and matters of dispute resolved.
- f. Promote the activities of the MDMG, the ADMG and the principle of voluntary self-regulation of deer management activities, contributing to the legitimate public interest in deer and communication of deer management plans to the local community.

3. Membership

Membership will be open to the owners of land holdings within the Morvern peninsula where the management of red deer is a continuing requirement, and to other people or bodies with a legitimate interest in the deer management of the MDMG area.

All members agree to comply with the Function and Objectives as stated in 2 above with proposed new members demonstrating compliance prior to being accepted as a

member of the MDMG at which time their membership is to be ratified by the group at an AGM or EGM.

#### 4. Operation of the Group

**Voting Members** - The group will consist of one nominated representative from each significant land holding with deer in the area, such agreed holdings generally exceeding 100 ha-, who will be a voting member of the group provided that the subscription for that landholding has been paid.

**Observers and Associates** - Non-voting Members, Landholdings, and associated bodies which have not paid subscriptions will be permitted to send a representative to observe meetings but will not be permitted to vote. Meetings will be open to members of the public as observers.

The voting members will have a right to co-opt other people or bodies to be Associates of the group. This could include managers, stalkers and other individuals or representatives of groups with interests in deer management and other types of land use.

The group also have the power to invite other individuals to specific meetings where they feel this to be appropriate. In addition, representatives of NatureScot Wildlife Operations and the ADMG will be asked to attend in an advisory capacity.

#### 5. Officers

The officers shall be the Chair; Vice-Chair; and Secretary /Treasurer. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected at the Autumn or Spring meeting or at an EGM in the event of retirement between AGMs. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected, or may be a remunerated position, on such terms as are agreed by the group. Nominations for these appointments shall be proposed and seconded and, in the case of the Chair; Vice-Chair, nominations and nominees shall be from among the voting members.

The term of office for each position will be three years and office holders shall serve no more than three three year terms consecutively in any one office. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be unremunerated except for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses on MDMG business against submission of receipts.

The responsibilities of the officers shall be:

**Chair** – to conduct meetings to ensure that issues are fully discussed and decisions documented; to ensure that members receive necessary information; lead communications with the local community and political representatives, represent MDMG with the ADMG and contribute to policy development, facilitate resolution of disagreements between members

**Vice - Chair** – support the Chair and deputise where necessary, assume some of the duties of the Chair as required

Secretary - schedule meetings; issue meeting notices, agendas and papers; keep minutes; keep members informed of ADMG and other developments; coordinate the updating of deer management plans; obtain, consolidate and disseminate cull statistics; arrange an annual deer count;

Treasurer - Control expenditure and subscriptions to ensure the MDMG remains solvent; arrange the preparation of annual accounts; and recommend the annual funding and subscription level and arrange collection of subscriptions. The treasurer will present the annual accounts at the AGM.

## 6. Meetings

Notice for the AGM, Ordinary Meetings and any EGM will be as stated below unless a majority of members agree to waive the right to notice.

### a. Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the group should be held once a year soon after the stag stalking season and attendance may be restricted to voting members or their proxies. It will be followed on the same day by the autumn ordinary meeting.

Written notice of the time, date and place of the AGM should be sent by post or email with suitable notice and in any case not less than 4 weeks before the meeting. This notice should also detail the items to be included on the agenda, together with a list of the current voting members and their proxies and non-voting members. Business not on the agenda can be taken at the discretion of the Chair.

Co-options shall be subject to re-election at the AGM.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall present the accounts for the preceding year, propose the level of funding and subscriptions for the coming year (see para 10 below), and dates for ordinary meetings in the next year and for the next AGM for approval at the AGM.

### b. Ordinary Meetings for Business

The MDMG will meet a minimum of twice per year generally,

Autumn meeting –soon after the stag season on the same day as and following the AGM.

Spring meeting- during Easter Week

Written notice should be given a minimum of 4 weeks in advance and generally at the preceding meeting. The meeting should where possible be held within the MDMG area. The agenda for the meeting and any relevant papers will be issued by post or email at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

### c. Extraordinary General Meeting

Extraordinary General Meetings (EGM) shall be held upon the Chair's decision or upon requisition in writing to the Chair or Secretary signed by at least one-quarter of

the voting members. Notice of EGMs shall be as for AGMs. Attendance may be restricted to voting members or their proxies.

#### 7. Voting

The voting members of the group shall have one vote each. In the case of an even vote, the proposal or motion shall not be approved.

Voting members who cannot be present at a meeting may nominate a proxy in writing or by e-mail to the Chair or Secretary. The proxy will have the power to vote and act on their behalf in all matters. In the event of the Chair or Vice-Chair serving more than two consecutive terms, a two-thirds majority of votes cast will be required, where a vote is called on their reappointment for a third term.

#### 8. Quorum

A quorum at a meeting shall consist of not less than fifty percent of the voting members or their nominated proxies (see para 7 above).

#### 9. Circulation

As well as the notices of all meetings, the current membership role, agenda and minutes of all meetings will be circulated to all members as well as NatureScot Wildlife Operations and the ADMG. The Secretary shall also circulate such other papers as are agreed by the group from time to time. Approved minutes of our meetings will be publicly available to view on the ADMG website.

#### 10. Funding

The group will have the power to operate a bank account for the purpose of administering its own affairs. Signatories to the account may be any of the officers.

The total funding shall be paid for by subscriptions in accordance with the formulae agreed by the group. The group will also have the power to raise subscriptions from non-voting members to cover the cost of administering their membership.

#### 11. Review of Constitution

The constitution shall be reviewed at least every three years and re-approved at the next AGM or, if necessary, an EGM.

Signed: P. Lawson

Chair

Date: 31/10/2023