

Ardagh Heritage Development Committee Constitution (“the Committee” / “the Group”)

1. Aims

The aims of the Group shall be to:

- a) Organise and fund a substantial restoration of the Ardagh Heritage Centre and its surrounding walls and railings, working closely in cooperation with local groups such as Ardagh Tidy Towns Committee.
- b) Organize both community based, social inclusion and tourism focused projects & events for the Ardagh Heritage Centre and village.
- c) Promote the Ardagh Heritage Centre and the history and people of Ardagh, County Longford.
- d) Provide recommendations to Longford County Council regarding the Ardagh Heritage Centre in relation to the implementation of relevant public consultations, including but not limited to the Co Longford Tourism Action Plan and County Development Plan
- e) Work in tandem with other community based groups in the locality, including but not limited to, Ardagh Active Age group, St. Mel’s National School, Club Ardagh (community based childcare facility), Ardagh Moydow GAA, St. Brigids Gaels, Naomh Padraig Óg Minor club, Ardagh United, Ardagh Comhaltas, Creative Ardagh, Ardagh Preservation Society, Ardagh ICA, Ardagh Moydow Baby & Toddler Group, Ardagh Gril Guides/Brownies,
- f) Seek to develop a number of sub-committees which will share the use of Ardagh Heritage Centre including developing certain community and fundraising activities such as periodic Farmer’s Markets, Coffee Mornings, Community Garden Events etc.

2. Powers/Objectives

In order to achieve its aims the Group may:

- a) Apply for funding and raise finance to support the restoration and running cost(s) of the Ardagh Heritage Centre and grounds
- b) Apply for funding and raise finance to support the development of tourism projects and community based events
- c) Take leasehold and freehold interests, where appropriate, including the acquisition of property provided it is for the enhancement of activities at the Heritage Centre
- d) Utilize a variety of marketing and media tools to promote the Heritage Centre (e.g.: Facebook, Co Longford Tourism, the Longford Leader (newspaper), etc).
- e) Provide feedback to various community based consultations (for example, the Co Longford Tourism Plan, Ardagh Tidy Towns work plan, etc.)

- f) Physically monitor and observe the general working order and physical condition of the Ardagh Heritage Centre, utilizing professional expertise as required.
- g) Vest any property interest obtained in trustees to act at the direction of the Committee and seek to be a depository of heritage artefacts and such as would be appropriate to store in the building
- h) Operate certain commercial activities at the Heritage Centre on a not for profit basis which enhance the experience for members, community groups and visitors to the Heritage Centre

3. Membership

- a) Membership of the Group shall be open to any person over 18 or an organisation living or located in the Ardagh, Co Longford area who is interested in helping the Group to achieve its aims, abide by the rules of the Group and willing to pay any subscription agreed by the Management Committee.
- b) Membership shall be available to anyone without regard to gender, race, nationality, disability, sexual preference, religion or belief.
- c) Every individual member and each organisation shall have one vote at General Meetings.
- d) The membership of any member may be terminated for good reason by the Management Committee but the member has a right to be heard by the Management Committee before a final decision is made.

4. Management

- a) The Group shall be administered by a Management Committee of the Officers and not more than 6 other members elected at the Group's Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- b) The Officers of the Management Committee shall be: the Chairperson, the Treasurer and the Secretary and their assistants/joint office holders as elected
- c) The Management Committee shall meet at least 6 times a year
- d) The Chairperson shall chair all meetings of the Group
- e) The quorum for Management Committee meetings shall be 5 members
- f) Voting at Management Committee meetings shall be by show of hands. If there is a tied vote then the Chairperson shall have a second vote.
- g) The Management Committee may appoint another member of the Group as a Committee member to fill a vacancy provided the maximum number is not exceeded.
- h) Members of the Management Committee are also the trustees of the Committee.

5. Duties of the Officers

- a) The duties of the Chairperson are to:
 - Chair meetings of the Committee and the Group
 - Represent the Group at functions/meetings that the Group has been invited to
 - Act as spokesperson for the Group when necessary

- b) The duties of the Secretary are to:
 - Take and keep minutes of meetings
 - Prepare the agenda for meetings of the Committee and the Group in consultation with the Chairperson
 - Maintain the membership list
 - Deal with correspondence
 - Collect and circulate any relevant information within the Group

- c) The duties of the Treasurer are to:
 - Supervise the financial affairs of the Group
 - Open and maintain the Group's Bank account
 - Keep proper accounts that show all monies collected and paid out by the Group

6. Finance

- a) Any money obtained by the Group shall be used only for the Group
- b) Any bank accounts opened for the group shall be in the name of the Group
- c) Any cheques issued shall be signed by the Treasurer and one other nominated official
- d) Neither the Management Committee or any Group member will receive remuneration for their work

7. Assets and Trustees

- a) The Committee shall have power to acquire, hold and develop, lease, mortgage, charge, exchange or sell Real and Personal Property, and to borrow or raise money in promotion of the aims and objectives of the Committee.
- b) The Real Property, including the proceeds of sale thereof, until otherwise directed by the Committee, shall be vested in the Trustees, whom shall be elected by the Executive Committee at the AGM.
- c) All Freehold and Leasehold property shall be vested in not less than three (3) trustees.
- d) The trustees of the Committee shall deal with the assets of the Committee as decided by resolution of the committee of which an entry in the minute book of the committee meeting shall be sufficient evidence.

8. Annual General Meeting

- a) The Group shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) which will be held annually and not more than fourteen months from the previous meeting
- b) All members shall be given at least fourteen days' notice of the AGM and shall be entitled to attend and vote. The quorum for an AGM will be 4 members
- c) The business of the AGM shall include:

- Receiving a report from the Chairperson on the Group's activities over the year
- Receiving a report from the Treasurer on the finances of the Group
- Electing a new Management Committee and
- Considering any other matter as may be decided

9. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting may be called by the Management Committee or by any 2 members to discuss an urgent matter. The Secretary shall give all members fourteen days' notice of any Special General Meeting together with notice of the business to be discussed. All members shall be entitled to attend and vote.

10. Amendments to the Constitution

- a) Motions to amend the Constitution must be submitted to the Secretary of the Committee in writing four weeks prior to the date of the AGM.
- b) The proposer of an amendment will be invited to speak for the motion of the AGM.
- c) The Committee will have the opportunity to respond if necessary.
- d) Motions to amend the Constitution will be carried on a majority vote of two thirds or more of those present & entitled to vote at the AGM.
- e) An EGM may be called to amend the Constitution if required. The same rules will apply to the EGM as apply at the AGM.

11. Decision Making

- a) The Committee will endeavour to reach consensus on decisions. In the event of this not being possible, decisions will be taken by a vote.
- b) Each member of the committee will be entitled to one vote.
- c) In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson will have a second or casting vote

12. Subcommittees and Task Groups

The Committee may establish subcommittees and/or task groups when required. These structures may include people external to the committee if appropriate.

13. Dissolution

The Group may be wound up at any time if agreed by two-thirds of those members present and voting at any General Meeting. In the event of winding up, any assets remaining after all debts have been paid shall be given to another Group with similar aims.


This Constitution was adopted at the General Meeting of the Group on: 15 April 2025

SIGNED as a DEED and DELIVERED

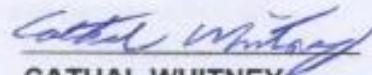
On: 15 April 2025

The signatories are:

by CHAIRPERSON
in the presence of:


DAVID FARRELL

by SECRETARY
in the presence of:

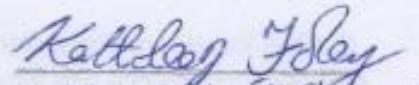

CATHAL WHITNEY

by TREASURER
in the presence of:

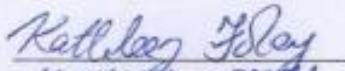

MICHAEL COLLENDER

WITNESSED BY

in the presence of:


[KATHLEEN FOLEY]

Signature of Witness:
Name of Witness:
Address of Witness:
Occupation of Witness:


KATHLEEN FOLEY
CROSS, ARDASH
TEACHER