

Welsh National Party Constitution

Adopted 16th December 2019

Names, purpose, objectives and values

Clause 1 Name

1. This is the constitution of a political party which will be known as 'The Welsh National Party' (referred to as 'the Party' in this constitution).

Clause 2 Purpose

1. The Party's purpose will be to maintain and organise a political Welsh National Party in order to seek election and govern at every level of government in which the party competes, including Community, Local Authority, Police and Crime Commissioner, Senedd, Westminster and European elections.

Clause 3 Aims and Objectives

1. The objectives of the Party are to secure individual, community and national Welsh sovereignty.

Clause 4 Values

1. The Party's values are reflected in the Propel Wales Statement, agreed by Propel activists in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, Wales on the 29th of September 2018. The statement has been adapted for the Party and is as follows:

The Welsh National Party Statement

2. In this time of great change, it is the responsibility of Welsh people to state our principles.
3. We, as members of the Welsh National Party, believe in the following:
4. Individual sovereignty must be protected. Natural justice, due process and free speech should be at the heart of Welsh life. The rights and freedoms of the individual and the protection of minorities must be enshrined in a Welsh constitution and bill of rights.
5. As Welsh people we have come together to live in communities. As such, community sovereignty and the right of communities to influence decisions must be respected. Major changes to our communities, particularly with regard to planning and development, should not be imposed centrally and should be ratified through democratic, local referenda. Decentralisation of decision making to community level must be a principle of government.

6. All countries, no matter how big or small, can stand on their own two feet and be successful. But more than that, we have a duty and responsibility to govern our own country. National sovereignty should be the overarching aim for our nation. Wales must be governed from Wales. Whilst sovereignty can be shared, any sharing of national sovereignty, or actions that would lessen national sovereignty, must be approved through national referenda.
7. Welsh National Party members believe a market economy offers the most successful economic arrangement in order to realise individual, community and national sovereignty. However, while favouring a market economy, Welsh National Party members believe in a just and fair market that serves the needs of Wales' communities and environment.
8. A fair market can only be achieved where severe poverty is eliminated, corruption is tackled, nepotism is ended, corporate lobbyists are reined in, corporate money is removed from politics, monopolies are broken up or mitigated against, where the country does not overburden itself with foreign debt, where there is a strong safety net for citizens and where all people have an equal opportunity to participate in the economy.
9. It is the duty of government to reach out to those who have been let down and left behind by the current political establishment. To create an inclusive economy, where young people can realise their full potential without having to leave Wales, we must encourage entrepreneurship and create the conditions

for people to live sovereign lives. In order to provide meaningful employment a New Economy must be built by reindustrialising Wales for the 21st Century through sustainable infrastructure and technology.

10. To create an inclusive country our national languages, history and culture should be recognised as bridges that connect us and be known to all.
11. Overall, Welsh National Party members believe we must deliver a united Wales that celebrates diversity in a unifying way. We need to ensure that all people in Wales are respected, because no one can respect us until we respect ourselves. We will judge our progress and strength on the unity we create.'

Clause 5 Membership

1. The Party is a political party for the Welsh nation, open to membership to all persons over the age of 14 who share the Party's objectives and values and who agree to be bound by this constitution, in addition to any further rules passed by the Party, except for any persons who have been excluded from membership or are a member of another political party that contests elections in Wales.
2. A member shall be considered to be in 'good standing' in the following circumstances:
 - a. Their membership subscription is up-to-date

- b. They are not suspended or excluded from the Party
- 3. Members shall be entitled to vote in such internal Party elections and ballots as the Board shall decide.
- 4. Members must pay a membership fee as the Board may determine.

Clause 6 Exclusion from membership

- 1. The Party Chairperson (or her or his Deputy) is entitled to refuse membership to any person where she or he feels it would not be in the interests of the Party to grant membership. The Chairperson will notify the Party Board of any such decision and the reason membership was not granted.
- 2. Any person refused membership shall have the right to appeal, within 28 days of the refusal, by writing to the Party Board and outlining their case for membership. The appeal will then be heard by the Party Board, whose decision will be final.

Clause 7 Ethics and conduct

INTRODUCTION

- 1. The Party aims to ensure that it operates a fair and systematic procedure in order to maintain standards of behaviour among members. To that end, the following scheme is in operation.
- 2. This policy deals with matters relating to a member's behaviour and this policy and

procedure applies to all members of the Party.

THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

- 3. The Party Board shall appoint an Ethics Committee ("the Committee") comprising of no fewer than six members. The members may serve on the Committee for a period of up to 4 years and may be re-appointed for a further period of 3 years, at the discretion of the Board. The Committee shall be served by a secretary.
- 4. Each member of the Committee will either be sufficiently experienced and trained to deal with such matters or the Party will ensure they are provided with appropriate training. Committee members are to act independently, free of political influence or interference, ensuring due process and natural justice at all times.
- 5. The Committee will elect a Chair and will notify the Board of the appointee. The Chair shall hold office for a period of up to 3 years. The Chair may also be re-elected for a further period, the length of which should be determined by the Committee.
- 6. Matters will be passed for consideration to the Committee as a result of a written complaint to the Chair of the Ethics Committee.
- 7. When such allegations are received, the Chair of the Committee shall approach members of the Committee in order to appoint a panel comprising of no more than three of its members (the "Hearing Panel"), to deal with the allegation(s) received.

8. If the Chair of the Committee is included in the membership of the Hearing Panel, she or he shall be the Chair of the Hearing Panel. If the Chair of the Committee is not included in the membership of the Hearing Panel however, the Hearing Panel, after consultation with the Chair of the Committee, will elect a Chair of the Hearing Panel for the sole purpose of dealing with the complaint.
9. The Committee may convene for discussions over email or remotely, or at meetings for the purpose of selecting the Hearing Panel, and the selection of members to comprise a Hearing Panel will be done on the basis of availability, expertise relevant to the case, and avoidance of possible conflicts of interest that might arise in a specific case.
10. Where for any reason the Committee is unable to convene a Hearing Panel from its existing members in a specific case, an alternative Hearing Panel member or members shall be selected on the basis of their expertise and their impartiality. The Committee and/or the Hearing Panel may seek legal advice on how to handle the procedure should such advice be deemed necessary.

EXAMPLES OF MISCONDUCT/GROSS MISCONDUCT

11. For the avoidance of doubt, conduct which solely relates to disagreement over Party policy shall not amount to conduct that is likely to bring the Party into disrepute, unless the disagreement is conducted in such a way as to purposely draw public

attention to policy divisions. Furthermore, the conduct and discipline of elected Members of the Senedd, Westminster Parliament or European Parliament shall at all times remain within the remit of the Chief Whip, unless it is related to ethics and integrity.

12. The following is a list of conduct which may give rise to disciplinary action. This list is not exhaustive and any other behaviour which, in the reasonable opinion of the Party, amounts to misconduct or gross misconduct may also give rise to disciplinary action. These allegations may be treated either as misconduct or as gross misconduct, depending on their severity.
 - a. Actions or statements in conflict with the aims or core principles of the Party, as articulated in the Constitution;
 - b. Membership of an organisation contesting elections in opposition to the WNP, or contesting such an election as an individual;
 - c. Actions or statements damaging, or potentially damaging, the public reputation of the WNP;
 - d. Failure to abide by any instructions or guidance given as a result of previous disciplinary action;
 - e. Conduct in WNP meetings or against WNP members during WNP-organised events or in correspondence dealing with WNP business which is intimidating, harassing or which causes distress or disillusionment among WNP members and/or staff;

- f. In respect of elected representatives, failure to abide by expected ethical standards;
- g. Breaches of the confidentiality provisions at clause 10 below during an on-going investigation/disciplinary proceedings;
- h. Conduct which includes the use or threat of violence, bullying or harassment;
- i. Conduct which amounts to discrimination towards any person on the ground of any of the following characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, nationality, language, religion, belief, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, pregnancy, maternity or marital status;
- j. Engaging in vexatious complaints against other members.
- k. Other breaches of any of the Party's rules, regulations or reasonable expectations of its members.

an HR consultant or someone else with adequate expertise to conduct such investigations in which case they shall be selected on the basis of both their expertise and their impartiality.

15. The Hearing Panel shall determine a timetable for completion of the Investigating Officer's Report having due regard for the need to balance the requirements for thoroughness, even-handedness, and the need for a swift resolution. All parties shall be informed of this timetable and kept informed of any likely delays or deviations. The remit and scope of the investigation shall be decided upon by the Chair of the Panel and the Investigating Officer shall be required to provide a statement explaining her or his methodology within the Investigation Report.

16. Upon receipt of the Investigating Officer's Report, the Hearing Panel shall meet to discuss the contents of the Report and to resolve whether or not there is a case to answer.

17. Where the Hearing Panel resolves that there is no case to answer the reasons for their decision shall be recorded and conveyed to all parties and the matter shall be closed.

18. Where they resolve that there is a case to answer, they shall convene formal disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the provisions of the Sanctions section in Clause 7.

INVESTIGATION

13. The Hearing Panel shall appoint an Investigating Officer to examine the facts of the case, conduct enquiries of all parties (including the complainant, and the person against whom allegations have been made), and to present a report to the Hearing Panel.

14. The Investigating Officer will be a trained member of the Party or, in exceptional circumstances, an external person, such as

DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

19. Once the Hearing Panel has determined that there is a case to answer in accordance with Point 18 above, the member against whom the allegations have been made shall be sent a disciplinary bundle that will include:

- a. an invitation to a Disciplinary Hearing, giving details of the allegations, time and venue and advising the member of their right to be accompanied at the meeting
- b. the Investigative Report and any relevant documents or statements

20. The Hearing will be held within 28 days of accepting the Investigative Report and at least 15 days' notice will be given for the disciplinary hearing.

21. At the Disciplinary Hearing, the Investigative Officer will present her or his report. The Hearing Panel shall consider the contents of the Investigation Report and any other relevant documents and shall also hear from and/or examine the evidence of the member(s) being the subject of the allegation(s).

22. If the member wishes to present written evidence or bring witnesses to the hearing, she or he must send such evidence and a list of witnesses to the Chair of the Hearing Panel at least 3 days before the hearing.

23. The member being the subject of the allegation(s) may be accompanied to the disciplinary hearing by a fellow member of the Party, or a relative or close friend. The role of any such companion shall be limited to taking notes and providing moral support for the person subjected to the disciplinary hearing. In serious cases, where the

outcome of the hearing may affect the livelihood of the member, legal representation will be allowed. Notice of at least 7 days must be given by the member and the Party in such circumstances, may also have legal representation present.

24. Upon hearing and considering all the evidence available to it at the disciplinary hearing, the Hearing Panel, by majority vote, will determine the outcome. It may either dismiss the case or impose an appropriate sanction as provided for in the Sanctions section in Clause 7 in the event that it is satisfied that culpability is established.

25. The decision reached by the Hearing Panel in accordance with Clause 7, Point 24 above will either be conveyed to the person facing the allegation(s) on the day of the formal hearing or within a timescale which shall be communicated to her or him at the end of the hearing but shall be no more than 5 days.

26. The member(s) against whom the allegation has been upheld shall be informed of her/his right of appeal as contained in the Appeal Procedure of Clause 7 below.

SANCTIONS

27. If the Hearing Panel decides that a Sanction should be imposed upon the person facing the allegation(s), the Sanctions available for it to impose on that person include, but are not limited to:

- a. Formal admonition;
- b. Verbal warning;

- c. First written warning;
 - d. Final written warning;
 - e. Exclusion from membership of the Party for a period not exceeding 24 months, when an application for renewal of membership will have to be made (see Clause 7, Point 50);
28. Exclusion from membership of the Party for a period of up to 2 years when an application for renewal of membership will have to be made (see Clause 7, Point 50).
29. In determining which sanctions to administer, or how many of the above sanctions to administer at the same time, the Hearing Panel shall consider what is reasonable in the circumstances of each particular case.
30. Resolution of an appropriate sanction may be reached by majority decision within the Hearing Panel where unanimity is not achieved.
31. The Hearing Panel shall maintain a written record of its deliberations and findings under the Disciplinary Proceedings and Sanctions sections above, and this Appeal Procedure.
32. The member shall have the right to register an appeal within seven days of the date of the decision. Appeals submitted after seven days have passed will not be heard unless in exceptional circumstances.
33. The appeal should be sent to the Party Board.
34. An appeal will not constitute a re-hearing of the case and therefore if it is brought merely on the grounds that the member disagrees with the outcome, it will not be heard.
35. An appeal will be heard where it is lodged on one or more of the following grounds:
- a. That the procedure adopted by the Hearing Panel was flawed and therefore unjust.
 - b. That the verdict and conclusions of the Hearing Panel demonstrate that they were based on factual inaccuracies.
 - c. That, while the verdict of the Hearing Panel is not disputed, the sanction(s) imposed is/are disproportionate or unreasonable.
36. In registering an appeal, the appellant must clearly set out the basis or grounds of their appeal in writing by referring to the grounds set out in Point 35 of Clause 7 above and detailing how these grounds are made out.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

37. Upon receipt of an appeal, the Chair of the Committee shall convene a discussion with those Committee members who did not participate in the Hearing Panel to determine which three members of the Committee may convene an Appeal Panel in order to deal with the Appeal.

38. If the Chair of the Committee is not included in the membership of the Appeal Panel, the Appeal Panel will elect a Chair of the Appeal Panel for the sole purpose of dealing with the appeal.
39. In the event that the remaining members of the Committee have a conflict of interest or are unable to participate in the Appeal Panel, the Committee may approach and appoint any other suitably qualified person to sit on the Appeal Panel.
40. The appeal shall then be heard by the Appeal Panel not less than 7 days and no more than 40 days after receipt of the appeal, save where there are circumstances which render it impracticable for the appeal to be held within this time frame.
41. The decision of the Appeal Panel shall be final and there shall be no further right of appeal. The Appeal Panel shall keep a written record of its decision and its reasoning and provide these to the member.
42. The decision of the Appeal Panel will be conveyed in writing to the member within 5 days of that decision being made.

SUSPENSION DURING INVESTIGATION AND / OR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

43. The Hearing Panel may in its absolute discretion recommend to the Chair of

the Party that she or he should suspend the member against whom the allegation(s) is made pending any investigation and/or determination of an allegation by the Hearing Panel.

44. The terms of a member's suspension by virtue of clause 8.1 shall be that she or he is not allowed to undertake or be engaged with or on any Party business or attend any Party meetings or write anything in connection with Party business during the term of her or his suspension. For the avoidance of doubt however, she or he will continue to officially hold office, candidacy or a representative role during any such suspension, but shall not be allowed to participate in the day to day work associated with that office/candidacy or role until the disciplinary proceedings or investigation has been resolved.
45. Any such suspension shall not presuppose culpability and shall last no longer than is reasonably necessary for the purposes of the investigation and/or disciplinary proceedings as set out in clauses the Sanctions and Appeal Procedure sections above. It shall be imposed merely to expedite the investigation and resolution of the matter, and to protect the interests of the Party.
46. Suspension is a separate measure to suspension from the Party as a disciplinary sanction as detailed under the Sanctions section above.

EXCLUSION AS A SANCTION AS STATED IN CLAUSE 7, POINT 27, SUBPOINT E ABOVE

47. A person whose membership of the Party is terminated for a period of time by virtue of a final decision under Clause 7, Point 27 above shall immediately cease to hold any office, candidacy or representative role at any level within, or on behalf of the Party and any such position shall forthwith become vacant. For the avoidance of doubt, this provision does not apply to a suspension pending a disciplinary investigation or determination under Clause 7, the Investigation and/or Disciplinary Proceedings above section, as the terms of that type of suspension are set out in Point 44 above.
48. A person excluded from membership of the Party as a result of the imposition of a disciplinary sanction in accordance with this policy shall have the right to make a fresh application for membership of the Party when her or his sanction comes to an end. Any such fresh application will be automatically referred to the Chair of the Ethics Committee for them to determine whether the circumstances have sufficiently changed so that an application might be approved. The Chair of the Ethics Committee's decision shall be final on this issue.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS

49. During the course of any proceedings which are necessary to be followed by the Hearing Panel in accordance with these Standing Orders the member against whom the allegation(s) has been made, and members of the Committee undertake to keep the existence and contents of any such proceedings strictly confidential, and will make no public statement regarding the existence of a complaint or the proceedings followed in its regard until such time as the outcome of the complaint has been determined by the Hearing Panel.
50. Once the outcome of the complaint has been determined by the Hearing Panel, the Hearing Panel may, if it deems it to be in the public interest to do so, publish a statement confirming the nature of the allegation(s) received concerning a member(s), and the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings followed in regard to that allegation, including whether it concluded there was no case to answer, or whether the allegation was upheld and details of any sanction administered to the member(s). The member(s) in question may at that juncture also respond to any such published outcomes in the public domain.
51. Any breach of this confidentiality shall be treated as a separate potential offence of misconduct or gross misconduct. In such a case, the person who has allegedly committed such a

breach may then become subject to additional disciplinary proceedings.

52. In the event that an appeal against an outcome under Clause 7, the Appeal Procedure is received, the appellant and the Committee shall adhere to the same obligations regarding confidentiality until such time as the outcome of the appeal has been determined.

REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP

53. In the event that a member of the Party:
- a. Joins any other political party that competes in Wales
 - b. Stands against the Party for election or assists others in standing against a Party candidate
 - c. Is found to be a member of another political party that competes against the Party
 - d. Encourages members of the public to vote for a candidate other than the Party's candidate, unless permission is issued by the Board
54. then the above Ethics procedure shall not apply. Instead the Party Chair shall revoke the person's membership without delay.
55. A person whose membership is revoked in this way shall have 28 days to appeal to the Board against the decision.

Clause 8 Leadership

1. There shall be a Leader of the Party (referred to as "the Leader" in this constitution).
2. The Leader shall be drawn from the Party's Group elected to the Senedd. Where there are no members elected to the Senedd, or where there are no Members of the Senedd willing to be Leader, the Leadership of the Party will be open to all fully endorsed candidates standing for election to the Senedd.
3. In the event that there is only one elected Member of the Senedd and they are willing, or where there is only one elected Member of the Senedd willing to be Leader, that person shall automatically be the Leader.
4. Where there is a vacancy for Leader, a candidate must be nominated by at least 20 percent of the Senedd Group of Members in order to stand. Nominations are to be sent by individual Members of the Senedd to the Party Secretary. Nominations not achieving the threshold will be null and void.
5. Where there is no vacancy, potential challengers must be nominated by at least 20 percent of the Senedd Group of Members, put in writing to the Party Secretary, at a date no later than 3 months before the Party's next scheduled annual Conference. The incumbent leader shall automatically be on the ballot, without

requiring nominations. Any person nominated, who is unsuccessful in being elected as Leader, shall not be eligible to stand for Leadership again for a period of three years, unless there is a vacancy for Leader.

6. In the event that there are no Members elected to the Senedd, a leadership contest can be triggered by not less than 10 Constituency WNP's writing to the Party Secretary to indicate they wish there to be a leadership election. The Party Secretary shall maintain a record of such requests until such time as 10 requests have been received. A constituency may withdraw such a request by writing to the Party Secretary. Where a leadership contest is triggered in such a scenario, candidates must be nominated by at least three constituencies to be on the ballot paper. Upon election of a new Leader all Constituency WNP requests for a Leadership contest shall be considered to have expired.
7. The Board shall decide on the appropriate voting method and timing of the leadership election, with a view to ensuring all members are enfranchised to vote in such an election. The Leader, where there is no vacancy, will recuse her or himself from any discussions or votes on such arrangements.

Clause 9 Activities

1. In order to further the Party's objectives the following activities may be undertaken:

- a. Standing candidates for public office, in the Party's name, in all democratic electoral processes that take place within the borders of Wales, in particular from the level of the Westminster Parliament through to Community Council level. The Party shall continue to field candidates or to appoint persons to institutions, where it is entitled to do so, regardless of whether the Party's objectives and policies call for abolition of such institutions.
- b. Undertake any lawful activities, for the furtherance of the Party's objectives, including; employment of staff; entering into contracts for the supply of goods and services; investing any monies where it is deemed to be of long-term benefit to the Party; purchase, lease or rent of property needed for the Party; raising funds and receiving donations and other monies permitted under law.
- c. Seeking and entering into cooperation with other organisations who share the objectives and values of the Party, where it would be for the benefit of the Party and/or the country to do so.
- d. Development of detailed policies to realise the Party's objectives and values, which shall be both domestic and international.
- e. Any other activities that the Board decides would be of benefit to the Party and would contribute to realising the Party's objectives.

Clause 10 Organisation

The Party Board

1. There will be a Party Board, which will be the principal authority and executive of the Party. The Board shall concern itself with the management of the Party, particularly its legal and financial responsibilities, and providing strategic direction.

Board composition

2. The Board should ordinarily consist of no more than ten voting members. These members shall be:
 - a. The Party Leader
 - b. 4 voting members appointed by the Leader, which she or he shall also have the power to remove
 - c. 5 members elected to the Board, consisting of one member from each Senedd region in Wales (South Wales East, South Wales Central, South Wales West, Mid & West Wales and North Wales).
3. The Board will also appoint a Treasurer, a General Secretary, a Chairperson and Nominating Officer, all of whom may be drawn from the voting members of the Board. Nominations for these posts are to be made by the Leader and approved by the Board. Where the General Secretary, Chairperson or Treasurer is not drawn from

one of the voting members of the Board they will be an ex-officio member of the board, who may take part in all Board meetings but with no voting rights. Where a casting vote is required it shall fall to the Chairperson. Where the Chairperson is already a voting member it shall fall to the General Secretary. Where the General Secretary is also a voting member it shall fall to the Treasurer.

4. All members of the Board, with the exception of the Leader, shall sit for a period of two years, upon which time they may be reappointed or re-elected.
5. The Board shall meet at least six times per year.
6. The quorum for Board meetings shall be six, where a full complement of Board positions has been filled. Where there are less than 10 voting members of the Board, the quorum shall lower proportionately.

Powers of the Board

7. The Board shall have power to do anything it considers to be related to the management and administration of the Party.
8. All powers of the Board may be exercised as the Board deems necessary. The Board shall also have the power to delegate its powers to any person or committee that it chooses.
9. The powers and activities of the Board will include, but are not limited to:

- a. Realising the objectives of the Party, as set out in this constitution, including election strategy
- b. Ensuring the Party adheres to all of its legal responsibilities and requirements
- c. Advising the Leader and her or his team on political matters and Party activity in constituencies
- d. Appointments of senior positions within the Party, including the Party Chairperson, General Secretary and Treasurer.
- e. Approving the Party's policies and manifestos
- f. Endorsing candidates for election
- g. Management of the Party's funds, employees and structures
- h. Amending the Party's rules, particularly when ensuring compliance with legal requirements and sound financial management
- i. Conducting internal Party elections

10. The Board will also establish subcommittees for finance, policy and the annual conference, while ensuring elections take place to the Ethics Committee. The Board shall also ensure proper training is given to members of these committees.

Eligibility to the Board

11. Only members of the Party in "good standing" shall be eligible to be members of the Board.

Vacancies and resignations

12. Any member of the Board may resign by giving written notice to the Party Chairperson. They may also give notice of their resignation orally to the Party Chairperson. Should a member of the Board give an oral resignation, the Party Chairperson shall write to the member to request written confirmation. If no response is received within one week, the member shall be deemed to have resigned.

13. Where an elected member of the Board has resigned, the Board shall initiate an election process to replace the member at the earliest opportunity. Where an appointed member of the Board resigns, the Party Leader shall appoint a replacement at the earliest opportunity, subject to approval by the Board where the appointment is for the Treasurer, Chairperson or General Secretary.

Expulsion from the Board

14. The Board may expel any member of the Board, with the exception of the Leader, through a vote passed by a two-thirds majority of the Board.

15. Such an expulsion should be on the grounds of:

- a. Persistent failure to attend Board meetings

- b. Breaches of Board confidentiality
 - c. Conduct that is harassing, bullying or intimidating to other members of the Board
 - d. Conduct that brings the Party into disrepute
16. Where a motion of expulsion is proposed, the member may make representations to the Board, in person or in writing, and may invite any witnesses to also make representations.
17. If a member is unable or unwilling to make such representations, where a fair opportunity to do so is given, the Board may make its decision in that person's absence. The Board's decision shall be final.

- b. Prepare an annual account for presentation to the Board
- c. Maintain accounting records for the Party as well as the Party's financial scheme
- d. Maintain the Party's registered details with the Electoral Commission
- e. Report donations and loans to the Electoral Commission and ensure they are from a permissible source
- f. Authorise and report campaign spending to the Board and the Electoral Commission
- g. Be registered with the Electoral Commission as the Party's PEF online administrator
- h. Facilitate an auditor's report on the Party's accounts, where income or expenditure is over £250,000 a year.

Clause 11

Senior Roles in the Party

Treasurer

1. The role of Treasurer is a legal requirement under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. The Party Treasurer will be registered with the Electoral Commission and, as such, their name will be publicly available.
2. The Treasurer will Chair a Finance Committee and appoint members to the Committee.
3. The Treasurer will:
 - a. Report on financial matters to the Board

Chairperson

4. The Party Chairperson shall be responsible for chairing meetings of the Board as well as the Annual Business Meeting, Party Conference and any Extraordinary General Meetings as may take place. They will also be responsible for maintaining a database of members and shall have the right to refuse membership, subject to the conditions laid out in Clause 6.
5. They may also nominate a Deputy Chairperson, who must be approved by the Board, who may chair meetings in the Chairperson's absence.

6. The Chairperson shall also be responsible for Party administration, including making administrative appointments, subject to approval by the Board.

General Secretary

7. The General Secretary shall ensure accurate minutes and records of decisions are taken of all Board meetings, the Annual Business Meeting, the Annual Conference and any Extraordinary Meetings that may take place.
8. They may nominate a Deputy Secretary, subject to approval by the Board, to carry out their functions, should they not be available.

Nominating Officer

9. The Nominating Officer will authorise the use of the Party's name, descriptions and emblems and will be publicly registered with the Electoral Commission.

Clause 12 Annual Business Meeting

1. The Party will, once a year, hold an Annual Business Meeting, at a time and venue that the Board will determine. The meeting will be open to all members in good standing who register in advance. The Annual Business Meeting is for the purposes of management and administration of the Party, namely:

- a. receiving and noting annual reports from the Leader and Party officers
- b. Receiving and noting the party's accounts

2. Motions at the Annual Business Meeting will be voted on by simple majority before ratification by the Party Board.

Clause 13 Party Conference

1. There shall be a Conference Committee, appointed by the Board, who shall make arrangements for an annual conference to take place in each calendar year. The Chair of the Policy Committee and Party Chairperson shall also sit on the Conference Committee.
2. The Committee shall elect a Chair from amongst its members. The Committee shall determine the time and venue of the conference and shall notify the party membership at least three months in advance of the time and venue and invite the membership to attend.
3. The Conference shall be Chaired by the Party Chairperson.
4. Each constituency shall be permitted to submit one motion to be debated and voted on at Conference. Groups of elected Party politicians may also submit one motion. This may include Party Groups on local authorities, the Westminster Parliament, the European Parliament or from the Senedd. Where the Party holds only one elected member to the Senedd, Westminster or European Parliaments, this shall constitute

a Group. The motion should be no more than 250 words and submitted in writing.

5. The motions to be debated shall be decided by the Conference Committee. The Committee shall have the right to redraft motions for purposes of clarity and to combine motions that are of a similar topic or theme.
6. The Chairperson shall invite a speaker from the constituency or constituencies that have submitted the motion to move it. Other speakers shall then be invited to speak for or against the motion, ensuring a similar amount of time is allocated to those speaking for and against. A vote will then be taken by simple majority. Where a motion proposes a constitutional change, or is judged by the Conference Committee to be a policy inconsistent with the Welsh National Party Statement or Party objectives, as outlined in this constitution, a two-thirds majority will be required.
7. Space will also be made available at Conference for topical motions and emergency motions. Where such a motion is submitted it must also include a statement on why the motion has become topical or urgent. Topical and emergency motions shall only be accepted where it is anticipated they will receive widespread approval. This is in order to prevent such motions being used for votes on contentious issues without allowing proper time for members and constituencies to consider them.
8. Motions that have been successful shall become party policy upon ratification by the Board at its next available meeting.

Clause 14

Party Organisation

1. The Party shall exist as a company limited by guarantee, without shares, registered with Companies House (Registration Number 11353311). The Party shall only contest elections in Wales and will be registered on the Great Britain register of parties.
2. The voting members of the Board must also serve as Directors of the Company from the date they are appointed until such time as their successor is appointed.
3. At a local level, the Party shall be organised as Constituency Welsh National Parties. It shall be for Constituency WNPs to agree their own standing orders, a copy of which must be sent to the Board for its approval. The Board shall provide model standing orders that Constituency WNPs may adopt.
4. Constituency WNPs should be maintained in each Senedd electoral constituency. However, where Constituency WNPs believe it would be in their benefit to do so, they may confederate into constituency federations. Such constituency federations must remain within the five Senedd electoral regions and not cross into other regions. Where Constituency WNPs have opted to confederate they must notify the Board and adopt and pass new standing orders, which must include a clear mechanism for how the ties may be severed.
5. The Board may also establish, suspend, disband or confederate Constituency WNPs as it may deem necessary.

6. The Party shall initially constitute one financial accounting unit. Any Constituency WNP wishing to be recognised as an accounting unit must first apply to the Party Treasurer for approval and demonstrate their accounting procedures. The Treasurer will then notify the Electoral Commission.

Clause 15

Candidates

1. It shall be for Constituency WNPs to decide on their candidates for election through a democratic selection process that must be outlined in their standing orders. All members in a constituency in good standing shall be eligible to put their name forward for selection. Where a constituency is unable to select a candidate from its own membership it shall be allowed to invite members from any constituency to put their name forward.
2. Any member seeking selection must make a full disclosure to the Constituency WNP of any material fact that may affect their suitability for candidacy. They must also give details of all social media accounts that they control, including any that are not in their own name. The disclosure and the names of the social media accounts shall then be passed by the Constituency WNP to the Party Chairperson.
3. When selecting regional candidates for Senedd elections all members in good standing within a region shall be eligible to put their names forward for selection. In the event that there are more than eight members putting their name forward, the top eight candidates shall go through to a run off at a separate selection meeting, which shall decide the final ranking of candidates. The Leader of the Party shall automatically be the Party's candidate in the constituency in which they are a member, unless they attain agreement by another Constituency WNP to be their candidate, and shall be ranked at the top of the Party list in the region in which they are a member. Candidates may also seek dual candidacy to both a constituency and one region in Senedd elections.
4. At Senedd, Police and Crime Commissioner, Westminster and European selections, no candidate shall be considered officially endorsed as a Party candidate until they have been ratified by the Board. For local authority and community council elections no candidate shall be officially endorsed as a Party candidate until they have been ratified by the relevant Constituency WNP or the Federated WNP.
5. The Board shall have the right to suspend or revoke any member's candidacy where they believe that candidate's selection would bring the Party into disrepute or cause reputational harm to the Party.
6. Should the Board suspend or revoke a member's candidacy that person shall have the right to appeal to the Ethics Committee.
7. Any member whose candidacy is revoked shall not be allowed to seek candidacy for the Party at any level, until such time as the Board may authorise them to do so.

Clause 16

Amending the Constitution

1. A proposal to amend this constitution may be initiated by the following:
 - a. A motion to conference
 - b. A motion submitted to the Board by at least ten Constituency WNPs
 - c. A resolution by the Board
2. Where Constituency WNPs or the Board initiate a motion to amend the constitution a ballot of all Party members in good standing shall take place. It shall be for the Board to determine the method for balloting the membership, which could include postal voting, electronic voting or any other secure and appropriate method. The ballot must take place within 60 days of the notification being received.
3. The same process shall apply for motions to dissolve the Party.
4. The Party Chairman shall act as the Returning Officer for any such ballots.