Constitution of East Sussex and Kent Equestrian Access Group

Name

- The name of the organisation shall be East Sussex and Kent Equestrian Access Group officially abbreviated to ESKEAG (hereafter referred to as "the Group").

Aims and Objectives

- To operate as a non-profit, voluntary community group
- To promote, protect, and improve safe off-road riding and driving routes across East Sussex and Kent.
- Advocate for the preservation and restoration of historic bridleways byways and multi user tracks
- To campaign for better bridleway connectivity and the preservation of dedicated horsebox parking.
- To collaborate with landowners, local councils, Forestry England, and the British Horse Society (BHS) to maintain accessible routes.
- Campaign for infrastructure improvements such as equestrian friendly gates, safe road crossings and clear road signage.
- To raise public and motorist awareness regarding the road and off-road safety of horses and riders.

Membership

- Membership is open to any individual who owns a horse, rides, or supports safe equestrian access in the region.
- The Group may offer individual, family or supporter membership tiers as decided by the Management Committee
- The Management Committee reserves that right to refuse or terminate membership if an individual’s conduct runs contrary to the Groups objectives, provided the member is given a fair opportunity to appeal.

Management Committee

- The Group shall be managed by a Committee of volunteers, elected annually by the members at the Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- The current Management Committee consists of :

- **Chairperson**: Gemma Little (Responsible for chairing meetings, directing group policy, and serving as the primary contact).
- **Vice-Chair**: Hazel Tonge (Responsible for supporting the Chair, standing in during absences, and aiding campaign strategy also manages social media).
- **Treasurer**: Sarah Jane Carey (Responsible for managing all financial records, group accounts, and funding reporting).
- **Communications Officer**: Linda Westcombe (Responsible for managing member correspondence accompanying Chair on FE meetings and website communication).

Meetings

- **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**: An AGM will be held once every calendar year to present annual accounts, review safety campaigns, and elect committee officers.
- **Special General Meetings (SGM)** An SGM may called by the committee or by a written request, signed by at least 10% of the voting membership to discuss urgent matter
- **Committee Meetings**: Held as needed to address all matters and correspondence
- **Quorum**: No business shall be transacted at a General Meeting unless a Quorum of 4 members are present.
- **Voting**: Decisions will be passed by a simple majority vote. In the event of an equal split, the Chairperson carries a deciding casting vote.

Finances

- The Treasurer will maintain an accurate financial record to be reviewed at each AGM.
- Not for Profit Status – All funds raised by donations, grants or events and assets acquired by the Group must be used solely to advance its stated aims and objectives. No portion shall be paid as profit or dividend to any member.
- Group funds will be kept in a dedicated bank account under the name of the Group. All financial withdrawals or online payments must require authorisation by at least two designated committee members.

Constitutional Alterations

- This constitution may only be altered, or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the voting members present at an AGM or SGM explicitly called for that purpose.
- Notice of any proposed amendment must be given at least 21 days before the meeting

Dissolution

- The Group may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote at an AGM or SGM
- In the event of dissolution, any remaining funds or physical assets after all debts are settled must not be distributed amongst members. Instead they must be transferred to another not-for -profit organisation with similar equestrian access objectives (such as local bridleway groups or regional equestrian access charities)

Adoption of the Constitution
This document is formally adopted on this day, _____ [Date], by the founding Executive Committee:

Gemma Little (Chairperson)
Signature: _____

Hazel Tonge (Vice-Chair)
Signature: _____

Sarah Jane Carey (Treasurer)
Signature: _____

Linda Westcombe (Communications Officer)
Signature: _____