



# THE CONSTITUTION

## 2024/2025

PREPARED BY HAYLEY DE RONDE

[blackfoxes.co.uk](http://blackfoxes.co.uk) | [blackfoxesuk@gmail.com](mailto:blackfoxesuk@gmail.com)

# The Constitution

## 1. Name

The organisation will be called Black Foxes UK (referred to as the 'Organisation').

## 2. Objectives

The Organisation aims to:

- Promote and protect the welfare of silver and red foxes in the UK.
- Increase public awareness and understanding of exotic pets and the environment, particularly the role of foxes.
- Support activities that protect animal welfare and wildlife habitats.

## 3. Membership

- Membership is open to UK residents aged 18 or over who support the Organisation's objectives, regardless of nationality, politics, religion, race, or sexual orientation.
- To join, an individual must submit a written application to [blackfoxesuk@gmail.com](mailto:blackfoxesuk@gmail.com).
- The Management Committee has the right to refuse membership.
- Members wishing to leave must send a written resignation to the Organisation.
- Members should participate in a positive and constructive way.
- A member behaving unreasonably or damaging the Organisation's reputation can be removed by a majority vote of the committee.
- Members must follow the Organisation's Code of Conduct.
- The annual membership fee will be decided at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). There is currently no fee.

## 4. Honorary Officers

- The Organisation will elect a Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other needed officers at the AGM.
- These officers will serve until the next AGM and can be re-elected.
- Officers will also automatically be part of any subcommittees.

## 5. Management Committee

- The Organisation will be managed by a committee, which must meet at least twice a year and have between three to five members.
- Committee members will be elected at the AGM.
- Any vacancies on the committee can be filled temporarily until the next AGM, at which point the person can stand for re-election.
- The committee can create subcommittees as needed, and subcommittees must report back to the main committee.

## 6. Organisation Meetings

- The AGM will be held within 15 months of the previous AGM. Members will be notified at least 14 days before the meeting by written notice or an ad in the local press.

- The AGM will address:
  1. Approval of the previous AGM minutes.
  2. Review of the annual report.
  3. Review of the financial statement.
  4. Election of officers and committee members.
  5. Appointment of independent financial examiners.
  6. Any other relevant business.
- The Chairperson can call a special meeting at any time or must do so if requested in writing by 33% of voting members. Proposed changes to the constitution or other issues must be shared with members at least 14 days before the meeting.

## **7. Meeting Rules**

- At committee meetings, a minimum of two voting members must be present for decisions to be made. At Organisation meetings, the same applies.
- Decisions at meetings will be made by a simple majority. In the event of a tie, the Chairperson has the deciding vote.
- Committee meeting minutes will record all actions and decisions and be available to all members.

## **8. Finance**

- The Organisation will raise funds through events, campaigns, donations, legacies, or grants.
- The financial year runs from 6th April to 5th April.
- The Treasurer will manage and record the Organisation's finances, producing a financial statement at year-end.
- The accounts will be independently examined annually, and the results presented at the AGM.
- The Organisation's assets can only be used to achieve its objectives.
- A bank account will be set up in the Organisation's name. Three committee members (including the Treasurer) will be authorised to sign cheques, with two signatories required for each cheque.

## **9. Publicity and Information**

- The committee will keep members informed through newsletters, leaflets, or public meetings.
- Any publicity in the Organisation's name requires committee approval.

## **10. Changes to the Constitution**

- Proposals to change the constitution can be made at the AGM or a special meeting. Written notice of the proposed changes must be given to the Secretary at least 21 days before the meeting and shared with members 14 days in advance.
- Changes to the constitution require approval by two-thirds of those eligible to vote.

## **11. Dissolution**

- If the committee decides by a majority vote that the Organisation should be dissolved, a special meeting will be called.
- Any remaining assets, after debts are settled, will be given to a charity with similar aims.

## 12. Signatories

Adopted by its members at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_01/12/2024\_\_\_ (date)

Name: **Hayley de Ronde**\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_*H. de Ronde*\_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson)

Name: **B. Underwood**\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_*B. Underwood*\_\_\_\_\_ (Vice Chairperson)

Name: **L. Shillington**\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_*L. Shillington*\_\_\_\_\_ (Honorary Officer)

## Appendices

### **BLACK FOXES UK MEETING MINUTES**

**Date:** 1st December 2024

**Location:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

**Present:** Hayley de Ronde, Barny Underwood, L. Sherrington

**Guest Speakers:** None

#### Meeting Minutes:

##### Item 1) **Welcome and Apologies**

1.1) *The Chairperson welcomed everyone. Apologies from Member A.*

##### Item 2) **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

2.1) *Minutes from the previous meeting could not be approved unanimously, as this is the first meeting.*

##### Item 3) **Treasurer Funding Report**

3.1) *The Treasurer presented the financial report. Balance: £0.00.*

3.2) *£30.00 invoice for yearly NBN Membership received.*

3.3) *£10.00 monthly recurring donation received from Ellie Monhagan. Thank you letter and membership invite sent.*

3.4) *Discussion needed over the £200 required to get the Fox Forum hosted and with a domain (£19/month or £192 yearly)*

##### Item 4) **Funding**

4.1) *After discussion, it was agreed that funding is required to further our aims.*

4.2.) *A decision to focus on enlisting a new Secretary, Treasurer and Vice Chairperson, was agreed. Enlisting Honorary Officers and new members will be a secondary priority until these roles are filled.*

##### Item 5) **Membership Recruitment Strategies**

5.1) *After long discussion, it was decided that we need a larger membership base.*

5.2.) *Members will make attempts to increase our membership with suitable persons.*

5.3) *New members and volunteers were introduced: Tessa Parker as Public Policy and Outreach Coordinator and Lea Candillier as Freelance Article Writer..*

##### Item 6) **Any Other Business**

6.1) *None.*

Item 7) *Date of Next Meeting*

7.1) *Agreed for 1st Dec 2025.*