

# Shildon Railway Bicentenary 'Little Street Cavalcade' Parade Committee

## Article I: Name

The name of this organisation shall be The Shildon Railway Bicentenary 'Little Street Cavalcade' Parade Committee.

## Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organisation is to act as a temporary and non-party-political forum for individual residents, and representatives of different groups or businesses from the community of Shildon and the surrounding area with the sole purpose of defining, championing, promoting, co-ordinating and operating a celebratory street parade, to be held on Saturday 2 August 2025, for Shildon to mark the bicentenary year of the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway.

The 'parade' will take place in association with a 'fun-day' event to be held on the same date in Hackworth Park which will be organised as a separate interest to the parade by officers of Shildon Town Council. However the 'parade' will, by necessity, be supported in an administrative and organisational capacity by officers of Shildon Town Council on a goodwill basis.

This committee is independent of Shildon Town Council, though officers of Shildon Town Council will act as the Council's organisational representatives.

## Article III: Membership

Membership in this organisation is open to any person resident in Shildon or its surrounding villages, including persons nominated by a club, community organisation or business to represent their participatory interest.

Members shall have the right to:

- Present views and opinions on the format and content of the parade.
- Raise reasonable questions on practical matters relating to the parade.
- Accept agreed individual actions that contribute to the progression of the parade on behalf of the parade committee.
- Report back to their respective community organisations or businesses where applicable.
- Cast their vote on matters referred for ballot of attending members at any meeting of this organisation.

Members shall be subject to the following core principles.

- **Personal Integrity** - members must not seek to use their position on this committee in pursuance of any personal financial or material benefit, though they can of course leverage the reputation and/or promotional benefit of having their organisation or business support the parade objective.
- **Honesty** - members must provide an honest representation on behalf of themselves and or the organisations or businesses they represent, and especially when communicating outwardly to their own organisations or the public on matters pertaining to the workings of, or on behalf of, this forum.
- **Behavioural Leadership** - an objective of this forum is to represent the very best of Shildon and its surrounding villages as a combined community. As such it is vital that members are expected to treat each other, and communicate with one another with utmost respect. Members through their attendance agree to act as champions and positive advocates for the parade celebration, to do their best to further its success, and to not seek to undermine that success or fellow representatives on the forum through public behaviour that could bring themselves or the parade initiative into disrepute.

Finally participants in this committee shall agree to behave apolitically, in the sense of party politics, both in committee proceedings, and in execution of the duties of organising the parade celebration. We aim to create a celebration that represents everyone within our community.

Members deemed to be failing to adhere to these principles may be requested to cease their participation as a consequence of a ballot of fellow members at a meeting.

#### **Article IV: Officers**

The officers of this organisation shall be:

- Chair - to keep order and ensure progress at meetings and act as formal outward facing spokesperson.
- Secretary - to keep a true and accurate record of proceedings at meetings and present correspondence.

Officers shall be elected by ballot of members attending the meeting on 9 Jan 2025.

Officers shall serve for a period terminating 1 month exactly from the parade date. The parade will take place on 2 Aug 2025, so the officers will relinquish their duties on 2 Sep 2025.

#### **Article V: Meetings**

Regular meetings of this organisation shall be held monthly on the second Thursday of each month.

Special meetings may be called by the chair.

A quorum for a meeting shall consist of ten members.

#### **Article VI: Finances**

Given the available lead time for this venture, and the reluctance of members to take on formal responsibilities, it is impractical for this organisation to hold finances in its own right.

Therefore any financial arrangements necessary to ensure the set up and running of the parade will be managed through individual partner organisations, including Shildon Town Council as principal practical and administrative partner, in accordance with their own constitutional arrangements.

#### **Article VII: Amendments**

This constitution may be amended by the Chair and Secretary subject to motions passed at a meeting of this committee.

Amendments must be approved by a ballot of members attending a meeting of this committee.

#### **Article VIII: Dissolution**

This organisation will be dissolved on 2 September 2025 following a final meeting to review and debrief after the event.