

CONFIDENTIAL

**Progressive Unionist Party
of
Northern Ireland**

**PARTY
CONSTITUTION**

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY BEFORE PARTY

PUPP



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Constitution of the Progressive Unionist Party

Amendments Page

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CONSTITUTION OF THE PROGRESSIVE UNIONIST PARTY

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INTRODUCTION:

The Progressive Unionist Party of Northern Ireland (hereafter known as the Party) believes that the social, economic and political progress of Northern Ireland can be assured only by the application of democratic socialist principles to government and the administration of public affairs.

1. The principles of democratic socialism can be defined concisely as:-

That the production and distribution of goods and services shall be directed to meeting the social and individual needs of people within a sustainable environment and economy and not to the making of profit;

To modify and control the operations of the monopolistic productive and distributive organisations through economic and social planning, and towards these ends where necessary the extension of the principle of social ownership;

The Party holds firmly to the belief that the dignity and freedom of the individual is a basic right and must be maintained and extended; and is proud to be associated with the democratic socialist parties of the world and to share the struggle for peace, international co-operation and the abolition of poverty.

2. The objectives of the Party are:-

To organise and maintain in Parliaments, National and Regional, a Political, Labour and Unionist Party;

To monitor, promote and protect the constitutional position of Northern Ireland as an integral part of the United Kingdom;

To co-operate with appropriate community, labour and associated organisations, in joint political or other action, in harmony with the Party Constitution;

To give effect as far as may be practicable, to the principles from time to time as approved by the Party Annual Conference;

To secure for the workers the total benefits of their industry and the most equitable distribution of those benefits that may be possible upon the basis of common ownership...by means of production, distribution and exchange...and by the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of that industry;

To promote generally the political, social and economic emancipation of the people of Northern Ireland, and more particularly those who depend directly upon their own exertions for means of life;

To co-operate with Labour and Trade Union organisations in the United Kingdom with a view to promoting the objectives of the Party...and to take common action for the promotion of a higher standard of social and economic life for the population of the respective regions; and

To promote and sustain the overarching objective of an anti-sectarian, pluralist and equitable society in Northern Ireland.

ARTICLE I ...DESIGNATION AND ABBREVIATION:

1. Designation

“The Progressive Unionist Party of Northern Ireland” and this title is to be used on all official communications.

2. Abbreviation

The abbreviation “PUP” is for use on the Party Brand and internal communications only.

- See Standing Order Number 1

ARTICLE II...DEFINITION AND INTERPRETATION:**1. Definitions**

Within this Constitution, wherever the words "Party Central" occur it shall mean the Head Office of the Party, inclusive of the Party Officers, Executive and other Committees and Sub Committees as may from time to time be established.

2. Interpretation

This Constitution shall be interpreted by the Standing Orders Committee, however any such interpretation may be subject to change by a majority decision and vote of members present at a regular meeting of the Party Executive Committee.

- See Standing Order Number 1

ARTICLE III...MEMBERSHIP:**1. MEMBER OF THE PARTY**

Every Member of the Party must initially join and remain a Member of their Constituency Association and be at least eighteen (18) years of age with dispensation for Progressive Youth Members only, who must be over sixteen (16) years of age

2. CATEGORIES OF MEMBERSHIP

The categories of Membership of the Party are determined as...

• FULL MEMBERSHIP

For those who are fully subscribing and active members

• ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

For those who are contributing to half subscriptions due to individual circumstance

• SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP

For those who are non-subscribing but otherwise supporting the ethos of the Party

• CRITICAL FRIENDS

For those considered by the Party Officers and Party Executive as significantly important supporters to the Party ethos and are non-subscribing

- See Standing Order Number 2

ARTICLE IV...FEES, DUES AND REVENUE SHARING:

Fees and Dues as determined from time to time by the Finance Committee are payable by Full and Associate Members in January annually or upon joining the Party

1. FEES AND DUES

Fees and Dues as determined from time to time by the Finance Committee are payable by Full and Associate Members

2. REVENUE SHARING

Basic membership fees shall be shared by the constituency association with Party Central. Any contribution to Party Central from additionally raised funds from a constituency association would be voluntary.

In an election year the Party Executive Committee may levy constituency associations for additional contributions in anticipation of election campaign costs. There shall also be an annual levy of each member toward the cost of the party's annual conference

- See Standing Order Number 3

ARTICLE V...ANNUAL CONFERENCE/ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**1. ANNUAL CONFERENCE...ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Party shall hold an Annual Conference/Annual General Meeting at a time and venue selected by the Standing Orders Committee. The date will normally be on or about Saturday the 13th October unless otherwise notified.

2. UNCONDITIONAL AUTHORITY

The entitled voting Membership at the Party Conference are the absolute authority on all matters on Party policy, programme and constitutional affairs...and as such are the final and unqualified authority on all matters pertaining to the Party.

3. NOTICE TO BE GIVEN

The Standing Orders Committee shall issue notice of Conferences two (2) Calendar months, where feasible, in advance of any Conference to all Constituency Associations and Subordinate Branches.

4. RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

Resolutions/Motions for consideration at Conferences must be submitted to the Standing Orders Committee at least two (2) Calendar weeks prior to the date as notified, where more than one Resolution/Motion is submitted by the same Constituency Association, Subordinate Branch, Individual Member or Group they shall indicate the order of preference for the Resolution/Motion

5. AGENDA

The Standing Orders Committee shall issue to Conference an Agenda and any Working Papers on the day of Conference

6. EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS/MOTIONS

The Standing Orders Committee may submit Emergency Resolutions/Motions to Conference as appropriate with agreement from the Chairman of Conference

7. GOVERNANCE

The procedure for governance of Conferences shall be as determined by the Standing Orders Committee

- See Standing Order Number 4

ARTICLE VI...ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCES:**1. DELEGATES WITH FULL MEMBERSHIP**

Every Full Member in good standing within the Party shall be eligible to attend the Party Annual or any other Conference as a Delegate and vote upon all matters arising

2. DELEGATES WITH ASSOCIATED MEMBERSHIP

Associated Members may have an attendance of one (1) Delegate for every ten (10) Members of a Constituency Association or Subordinate Branch and vote upon all matters arising

3. NON DELEGATES WITH MEMBERSHIP

Members with Support Base or Critical Friends Membership may attend conference but will not have voting rights

4. HONORARY ATTENDEES

Present and Former Party Presidents are entitled to attend with full voting rights

5. VISITORS

Visitors may attend Party Conference on invitation from the Standing Orders Committee but will have no voting rights

6. QUORUM

The quorum for Conference shall be forty percent (40%) of the registered Delegates

7. VOTING

Delegates shall have one (1) vote only on any subject at Conferences with a simple majority required to adopt a Resolution or Motion however a sixty percent (60%) majority of registered Delegates will be required to adopt any change to the Party Constitution or Standing Orders

8. STANDING REPORTS TO CONFERENCE

Reports may be called for from Standing Committees at the discretion of the Standing Orders Committee

- See Standing Order Number 4

ARTICLE VII ...PARTY OFFICERS:**1. MEMBERSHIP**

The elected Officers of the Party are:-

- Party Leader
- Deputy Leader
- Party Chairperson/Chief Executive
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Chief Elections & Nominations Officer
- Director of Communications
- Training & Development Officer

The Party Officers are Ex Officio to all Constituency Associations, Subordinate Branches and Committees in the Party by virtue of and for the tenure of their Office

2. PARTY PRESIDENT

The position of Party President is an honorary office bestowed upon an individual by the Party that entitles Past and Present Presidents to attend and participate fully in all Conferences and Meetings of the Party

3. BUSINESS OF PARTY

The Party Officers shall provide the direction and policy for the Party

4. ELECTION OF PARTY OFFICERS

The Election of Party Officers shall be determined by the delegates at the Annual Conference every second year, any vacancies shall be filled by the Party Officers in collaboration with the Party Executive in the interim period and be decided upon at the next Annual Conference

- See Standing Order Numbers 5 & 16

ARTICLE VIII ...PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

1. APPOINTMENT

The Party Executive shall be elected by the Party Annual Conference

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- Party Officers (Ex Officio)
- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson
- Party Organiser & Membership Officer
- Members for special purpose (Spokespersons and Time Limited Projects)

3. ELECTION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Election of the Executive Committee shall be determined by the delegates at Annual Conference every second year, any vacancies shall be filled by the Party Officers in collaboration with the Party Executive in the interim period and be decided upon at the next Annual Conference

4. CHAIRPERSON

The Chairperson shall be the Party Chairperson/Chief Executive of the Party

5. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Establish, develop and maintain the aims and objectives of the Party
- Scrutinise Committees, Spokespersons and Time Limited Projects Projects
- Oversee the Finances of the Party
- Issue statements on behalf and in the name of the Party
- Any other business relevant to the Party or Its tenets

6. MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- The Executive shall meet Monthly as notified
- Extraordinary Meetings will be called at the discretion of the Chairperson
- The Quorum for an Executive meeting shall be forty percent (40%) of its Membership
- Voting shall limited to Elected Members present with a simple majority required

7. SUB COMMITTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Election Strategy Committee
 - Appeals Committee
 - Standing Orders Committee
 - Finance & General Purposes Committee
 - Committee of Party Council
 - Others as considered necessary for the good governance of the Party
- See Standing Order Number 6

ARTICLE IX ...ELECTION STRATEGY COMMITTEE:**1. APPOINTMENT**

The Committee shall be appointed by the Party Executive from Members of the Party. It shall have complete autonomy in the design, procurement and distribution of all election materials.

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- Chairperson who will be the Party Chief Elections/Nominations Officer
- Party Director of Communications
- Three (3) Members of the Party as selected by the Chairperson
- Co-opted Members as determined necessary by the Chairperson & Committee

3. FUNCTION

The Committee shall, on behalf of, and in collaboration with the Executive Committee:-

- Formulate and develop the Party election strategy, manifesto and policies
- Obtain maximum exposure on broadcast, print and social media sites
- Manage candidates diaries for the determination of press and location purposes
- Function as the Central Election Office under the Chief Elections Officer
- Provide training and support for Candidates, Agents and Sub Agents
- Monitor and audit all Election expenses with the Party Treasurer
- Produce reviews of the Party Manifesto/Policies to the Party Executive
- Co-opt Party Members as deemed necessary by the Committee

4. MEETINGS

The Election Strategy Committee shall meet as notified by the Chairperson

- See Standing Order Number 7

ARTICLE X ...APPEALS COMMITTEE:**1. APPOINTMENT**

The Appeals Committee Chairperson shall be appointed by the Party Leader

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- Four (4) Members who shall be appointed by the Chairperson
- Period of membership to be three (3) years (or as deemed expedient)
- Turnover of Membership if necessary to be one (1) annually
- Membership vacancies to be filled by the Chairperson

3. FUNCTION

The Appeals Committee shall hear all Appeals as made by Members or representatives of Constituency Associations on matters arising out of the Disciplinary or Grievance procedures. (Standing Order Number Eight (8))

4. PROCEDURE

- A Notice of Appeal must be lodged with the Chairperson of the Appeals Committee with seven (7) days of the outcome of any Disciplinary proceedings having been taken
- A Notice of an Appeals hearing must be issued to the appellant seven (7) days prior to any Appeals Hearing
- A Party Member in good standing may accompany any appellant(s) and speak on behalf if so requested

5. MEETINGS

The Appeals Committee shall meet as notified by the Chairperson

6. FINDINGS

- The decision of the findings of the Appeals Committee shall be final and absolute and no further appeals shall be permitted unless so directed by the Party Executive
- The decision of the Appeals Committee shall be forwarded to the appellant(s) within seven (7) days of the hearings conclusion
- A record of the proceedings shall be lodged with the Party Executive for scrutiny after being received by the appellant(s)

- See Standing Order Number 8

ARTICLE XI ...STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE:

1. APPOINTMENT

The Standing Orders Committee shall be appointed by the Party Executive

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- Chairperson shall be the Party Chairperson/Chief Executive
- Party Secretary
- Party Treasurer
- Party Training & Development Officer...plus
- Three (3) Members from throughout the Party network structure
- Period of membership to be three (3) years (or as deemed expedient)
- Turnover of Membership if necessary to be one or two (1 or 2) annually
- Membership vacancies to be filled by Chairperson

3. FUNCTION

The committee shall attend to matters referred to them regarding the Standing Orders or the Party Constitution and have authority to examine and make recommendations on these issues. The committee shall also have direct responsibility for:-

- The maintenance of the Party Constitution
- The compilation, development and regulation of Party Standing Orders
- The rules of procedure at Party Meetings, Events and Conferences
- The governance of Party Annual Conference and Rules Conference
- Other duties as set by the Party Officers or Party Executive

4. MEETINGS

The Standing Orders Committee shall meet as notified by the Chairperson

5. PROCEDURE

Representations may be made to the committee by Constituency Associations upon being duly proposed, seconded and passed by a majority vote at a regular meeting of the constituency. The committee shall action such representation as follows:-

- Should the recommendation be accepted and an addition or deletion is required to the Constitution or Standing Orders the committee shall request the Party Executive to put such change to the Annual Conference for its decision
- See Standing Order Number 9

ARTICLE XII ...FINANCE COMMITTEE:**1. APPOINTMENT**

The Finance Committee shall be appointed by the Party Executive

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- Chairperson shall be the Party Treasurer
- Treasurers from the Constituency Branches
- Turnover of Membership to be on relinquishment of Treasurers post

3. FUNCTION

The committee shall attend to matters relating to the Finances of the Party

- Develop and maintain the Party Financial Scheme
- Finance and Employment of Party Staff (as applicable)
- Membership Fees
- Fundraising and Donations
- Funding of Party Conferences and Events
- Expenses incurred by other Party Committees
- Allocation of resources for Elections and Party activities
- Production and development of Audit and Financial Returns
- Annual Audit of Party and Constituency Associations
- Other duties as set by the Party Executive

4. MEETINGS

The Finance Committee shall meet as notified by the Chairperson

5. PARTY TREASURER

The Party Treasurer is responsible for the submission of an Annual Statement of Accounts as required by the Electoral Commission

6. FINANCIAL YEAR

The Financial Year shall be from 1st January to 31st December

7. AMENDMENTS TO FINANCIAL SCHEME

The Party Treasurer will ensure that any amendments to this Financial Scheme are submitted to the Electoral Commission for approval

- See Standing Order Number 10

ARTICLE XIII ...PARTY COUNCIL:**1. APPOINTMENT**

The Party Council shall be called by the Party Leader in collaboration with the Party Officers

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- Chairperson shall be the Deputy Chairperson of the Party Executive
- All Constituency Associations Chairpersons
- All Full Party Members in good Standing
- Co-opted attendees as agreed by the Chairman and Party Leader

3. FUNCTION

The Party Council shall be the Forum for debate and development within the Party

4. MEETINGS

The meetings of these committees shall be that...

- The Party Council shall meet bi-monthly as notified by the Chairperson

- See Standing Order Number 11

ARTICLE XIV ...CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS:

1. APPOINTMENT

The Party Constituency Associations and associated Subordinate Branches shall be approved by the Party Executive. These being organised into Constituency Associations based on the Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies in Northern Ireland. Constituency Associations and subordinate Branches must register with Party Central on the Party Registration Form.

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- A minimum of ten (10) Full Party Members is required to form a Constituency Association
- Constituency Associations that fall below the requisite ten (10) Members will be amalgamated with the nearest Constituency Association in greatest need, and may have a Constituency representative to represent the interests of the Constituency Association which has been amalgamated

3. SUBORDINATE BRANCHES

Constituency Associations may organise Subordinate Branches within their Constituency as follows...

- A minimum of ten (10) Full Party Members is required to form a Subordinate Branch
- Subordinate Branches that fall below the requisite ten (10) Members will be amalgamated with the nearest Constituency Association in greatest need
- May have a Subordinate Branch representative to represent the interests of the Subordinate Branch which has been amalgamated
- The Subordinate Branch will be accountable in all Party matters to their Constituency Association
- The Subordinate Branch will be administered and governed in a similar structure to that of their parent Constituency Association

4. MEETINGS

Constituency Associations and Subordinate Branches shall meet monthly and as otherwise determined by the Chairperson

5. OFFICE BEARERS

Each Constituency Association and Subordinate Branch shall appoint the following Officers Bearers...

- Chairperson
- Deputy Chairperson
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Organiser & Membership Officer
- Electoral & Communications Officer

They may also appoint the following Office Bearers as required...

- Assistant Secretary
- Assistant Treasurer
- Assistant Organiser & Membership Officer
- Assistant Electoral & Communications Officer

Term of Office...

- The Term of Office for incumbents shall be for one (1) calendar year without limitation on re-election to office
- Election of Officers shall be held annually in January with a return of Officers Being submitted to the Party Secretary & Treasurer immediately after that meeting
- The Election shall be confirmed by a simple majority on a show of hands unless otherwise requested by the majority of those present
- Interim changes of Chairperson or Treasurer must be reported to the Party Treasurer within five (5) working days of such change for Electoral purposes

6. FUNCTION

The Constituency Associations and Branches shall be responsible for the good governance of their organisation in its entirety

7. QUORUM

The quorum for Constituency Associations and Subordinate Branches shall be forty percent (40%) of the total Membership with a simple majority required for any vote to be passed

8. ACCOUNTS

The management of Constituency Associations and Subordinate Branch accounts shall be as follows...

- Accounting Unit...Each Constituency Association and associated Subordinate Branches shall be deemed as an independent accounting unit and as such is required to ensure suitable financial arrangements are in place, and that Annual Returns are made to the Party Treasurer on the 31st March annually with Subordinate Branches having made their Annual Return to their Constituency Association by the 1st March annually
- Financial Year...The Financial Year for accounting purposes shall be from 1st January to 31st December

- See Standing Order Number 12

ARTICLE XV ...WOMEN'S COMMISSION:**1. APPOINTMENT**

There shall be a semi-autonomous women's section in the Party who shall be titled "The Women's Commission" and shall be appointed by the Party Executive

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- A minimum of ten (10) Full Party Female Members is required to form the Women's Commission

3. ADMINISTRATION

The Women's Commission shall for administrative purposes function in accordance with similar arrangements laid down for Constituency Associations in Standing Order Number Twelve (12)

4. MEETINGS

The Women's Commission shall meet as notified by the Chairperson

5. FUNCTION

The Women's Commission shall oversee the affairs of Women within and without the Party and shall carry out any special projects as may be instructed by the Party Executive from time to time

- See Standing Order Number 13

ARTICLE XVI ...PROGRESSIVE YOUTH:**1. APPOINTMENT**

There shall be a semi-autonomous section in the Party who shall be titled "Progressive Youth" and shall be appointed by the Party Executive

2. MEMBERSHIP

This shall consist of the following Members...

- A minimum of ten (10) Full Party Members is required to form the Progressive Youth
- Age limitations for Membership of Progressive Youth shall be from sixteen (16) to thirty (30) years of age

3. MEETINGS

Progressive Youth shall meet as notified by the Chairperson

4. ADMINISTRATION

Progressive Youth shall for administrative purposes function in accordance with similar arrangements laid down for Constituency Associations in Standing Order Number Twelve (12)

5. FUNCTION

Progressive Youth shall oversee the affairs of Youth within and without the Party and shall carry out any special projects as may be instructed by the Party Executive from time to time

- See Standing Order Number 14

ARTICLE XVII ...DISCIPLINE & GRIEVANCE:

1. CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

Constituency Associations inclusive of their Subordinate Branches shall be responsible and accountable for the discipline and grievance protocols of their Members in accordance with the Constitution and Standing Orders of the Party

2. PARTY CENTRAL

Party Central (Officers & Executive) shall be responsible and accountable for Members and Employees of the Party Central

- See Standing Order Number 15

ARTICLE XVII ...CANDIDATES FOR PUBLIC ELECTIONS:

1. PROCEDURE

- Subject to paragraph 2 below candidates shall be nominated in accordance with the procedures laid down in Standing Orders
- The Executive Committee shall formally adopt or reject the Constituency Nominations

- See Standing Order Number 17

ARTICLE XIX ...AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION:

1. PROCEDURE

- This Constitution may only be amended by a sixty percent (60%) majority of all Delegates present at any Annual Conference/Annual General Meeting

- See Standing Order Number 18