

Steward Membership Policy

Preamble:

This policy is an addition to section 1 of the Society's Rules. As such it cannot be amended without recourse to rule 2.7c) vii).

Definition of Steward Membership

“those individuals or organisations actively engaged in the society's objects, and/or engaged primarily in agroecological production in a practical or advisory capacity and/or engaged in the ecological land management objectives of the society in a practical or advisory capacity and/or engaged the values and principles of Food Sovereignty and/or in engaged in organising under the ICA Co-operative identity, value and principles.”

Purpose of Steward Membership

To build a supporting Community of Practice to ensure the longevity of the society in its commitment to enact its purpose as follows:

“To hold the land known as Coed Talyllan in trust, in perpetuity for the benefit, health and well-being of the communities, both human and non-human, that are dependent on, or care for the land, and in doing so, to steward the development of the land according our shared values and principles.”

Rights and Responsibilities

Steward Members have the same rights and responsibilities as supporter members, as described in the Membership Agreement but with the additional responsibilities to:

- To provide an oversight in the society's commitment to ensuring fair and democratic governance
- To help facilitate the society's commitment to support the development and growth of the co-operative movement

Steward Members can take on specific roles and responsibilities in the Society. Relevant induction and training will be provided by the Society if and when required.

Nomination

Steward Members, as individuals or organisations, as existing supporter members or not, can be nominated by any member of the Society, in writing, by post or e-mail, submitted at least 28 days before a General Meeting. A reminder for submissions will be sent to all members 2 months before the Society's AGM or any relevant General Meeting.

Application for Steward Membership

Nominated prospective Steward Members must complete an online application form, accessed through the Society's website, which will include qualifying statements as to how they fulfil the definition and responsibilities of the Steward Membership role.

Membership Thresholds

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In accordance with 1.4 in the Society's Rules the society has the aim of building a diverse membership representative of the wider community. In doing so, Society must ensure that the Steward membership class serves as a balance within the governance structure of the Society and therefore commits to maintaining a minimum of Steward Members at least twice the number of Home Members.

If, for whatever reason, the Steward Membership level falls below the target minimum, the board must publish an action plan increase Steward Membership. If the number of Steward Members is below the minimum before an AGM the annual Social Impact Report must present an explanation for this as well as an action plan for restoring the minimum level of Steward Members before the next AGM. The board may also request willing and voluntary Supporter Members to serve as temporary Steward Members until the more Stewards are elected.

Steward Members – Quorum for General Meetings

“the lesser of 8 and all of the members of the Steward class”

It is therefore necessary for Steward Members to commit to attending general meetings to ensure this requirement is met.

Commitment to Diversity

In accordance with the Society's Objects, Rule 1.4 and the Society's Equality and Diversity Policy the Society will work towards creating a diverse membership.

Membership Benefits for Steward Membership

Steward members enjoy the same benefits as Supporter Members. These benefits are as follows:

- 10% Discount on all Coed Talylan Products
- 15% or more Discount on Coed Talylan Courses and Training events
- invitation to ongoing volunteer and member training events
- Invitation to Spring and Summer Gatherings
- invitation to the Annual Autumn “Refungium” Gathering

Organisations as Steward Members

Any organisation serving as a Steward Member must nominate a representative at least 14 days before the AGM. That representative will enjoy the same benefits as Supporter Members over the subsequent year.

Election as Steward Members

A list of prospective Steward Members with their qualifying statements will be published to all members 14 days before an AGM or an Extraordinary General Meeting.

Weighted voting is suspended for the election of Steward Members.

Steward Members are elected by a simple majority.

Steward Members are elected on a 5-year basis after which they must stand down to be re-elected or resign.

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Resignation as a Steward Member

A 6-month notification of resignation must be given to the society before the AGM to allow for a replacement to be found and elected.

Membership Shares

The minimum shareholding for Steward Members is £10