

Baslow Association for the Prosecution of Felons and other Offenders
inaugurated August 1793

WHEREAS divers and other misdemeanours are frequently committed by evil disposed persons to the great Grievance and Injury of the public in general and to the suffering Individual in particular and oftener so by reason of the Offender escaping the hands of Justice on account of the great Hardship and Inconvenience arising from a prosecution at the sole Expense of the Injured party

AND WHEREAS for the discouraging and preventing of all such offences as far as in us lies it has been agreed by us inhabitants of the Constablewick of Baslow in the County of Derby whose Hands and Seals are hereunto subscribed and set to be vigilant in Discovering all Person in the like cases offending against the Person Family or Property of any of Us parties hereto and such person who Discovered to **prosecute** as the law directs BUT in order that no prosecution may be commenced and carried on to serve private Pique or Malice and without a sufficient Offence being committed deserving the prosecution by this Association and for any reasonable expectations of Convicting the offender

It has also been agreed THAT no prosecution shall be commenced and carried on under this Agreement but by and with the approbation of someone of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace acting in and for the said County of Derby who shall be resident near the place where this cause of such Prosecution shall happen to be committed

And also by a majority in number of a committee of five persons which committee shall be chosen by and out of the Subscribers by a majority in Number for that purpose and which Committee shall be chosen within ten days next after the date hereof and continue a Committee for the above purpose for the term of twelve months at the expiration of which time a fresh committee shall be chosen in like manner and for the like Term an so from time to time, so long as the subscribers can agree and in case any of the Committee shall happen to die before expiration of their term then the survivors of them to act in like in like manner for the purpose requesting in such Case the voice of the Treasurer of this Association for the time being act with them in place of such deceased Committee – man

NOW for the carrying the said Agreement and the intentions thereof into Execution whenever circumstances require WE whose hands are hereunto subscribed and seals affixed and who have already respectively paid down and advanced the sum of FIVE SHILLINGS by way of making a Fund for discharging any Expenses preparatory to complete this Association DO and each and every one of us DOTY for himself and herself has his and her Heirs Executors and Administrators COVENANT promise and agree to and with each other in manner following that is to say,

THAT when and as often as there shall happen to be any Felony Trespass or other Misdemeanour committed against the Person or Family of any of Us parties hereto in any place within the said County of Derby or against the Property of any of Us parties hereto in any place respectively within the said Constablewick of Baslow THAT such injured Person shall as soon as conveniently may be in Duty to the public in general and to this Association in particular make the same known to the Committee of this Association who shall immediately proceed to find out such Offender or Offenders by such Ways and Means as they in their discretion may point out and the Law allows and such Offender or Offenders when found out to prosecute under the approbation aforesaid by all or any ways or means as by the Law in like cases is directed until such Offender or Offenders shall be Convicted of or Discharged from such Offence or Offences by Law the expenses of all which proceedings is hereby Covenanted and agreed shall be born and defrayed by and out of the Fund of this Association in case that fund be sufficient but if the same be

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insufficient then by Us parties hereto by an equal collection to be made by the Committee from all and every one of of Us in such equal proportion as shall raise a sum adequate to the sum required

AND it is hereby further mutually COVENANTED and agreed by and between all of Us parties hereto that in case any Member of the Association shall refuse or neglect to pay his proportion or quota under the terms aforesaid by the space of fourteen days next after being called upon by order of the Committee for the time being he or she shall from that time be struck out of this Association and forfeit and loose all Claim Benefit or Demand to or from the same or any Fund belonging hereto

AND it is also agreed that the parties to this Association and every of them shall be and continue an association from the date hereof for one Year at least and so from year to year until he or she who shall be inclined to go out shall have signified in writing such Inclination to the said Committee three Months at least previous to the going out of the same and that whenever such going out shall happen it shall be done and considered as a Relinquishment to all future advantages or Interest in or to the Fund of this Association which is meant and intended to continue an Association upon the approved Terms by all such who shall not have gone out in a manner above mentioned PROVIDED nevertheless and it is hereby Covenanted and agreed that at all times during the pending of any Prosecution or at any time previous thereto provided Notice shall actually have been given to the Committee of any Felony Trespass or Misdemeanor having been committed upon any of Us parties or any of our properties any Member at such time having given notice for Acting wishing this Society shall not be in such case at liberty to withdraw himself from this Association without paying or causing to be paid to the Treasurer for the time being to be added to the general Fund the Sum of Five Pounds sterling and in such cases the said penalty or payment of five pounds to the general Fund shall also attach to any Member refusing or neglecting to pay his regular share or quota within fourteen days after being called upon by the Committee or by their Order And after payment of such Penalty the Expulsion for his or her not paying such regular Quota within the limited time aforesaid shall at all times take place any thing herein contained to the authority of this proviso in any wise notwithstanding

AND LASTLY that all Bye-Laws which shall hereafter be found necessary to be make for the good Order and Management of this Association shall be made and Voted by a majority in number of subscribers and hereupon become binding and when made and passed into a Bye-Law shall be fairly written in a book for that purpose to be obtained wherein the Accounts also of this Association shall from time to time be duly signed and executed by the then acting Committee and from that time shall be considered binding upon all Parties hereto as fully and effectually to all Intents and purposes as if written consented to and Covenanted to be observed upon the Execution hereof DOTH WITNESSETH our hands and date the Twenty eighth day of June in the fortieth Year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the third by the grace of God KING of Great Britain and so forth and in the Year of our Lord one thousand and eight hundred.

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