

THE DEDDINGTON SOCIETY
CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Association shall be the DEDDINGTON SOCIETY (hereinafter called the Society).

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be

(a) To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of the parish of Deddington (hereinafter called the area of benefit) without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions, by associating the local authorities voluntary organisations and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

(b) To establish or to secure the establishment of a Community Centre (hereinafter called the Centre) and to maintain and manage or to co-operate with any local statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the Society and its constituent bodies.

(c) To stimulate public interest in the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest and to promote high standards of planning and architecture within the area of benefit.

In furtherance of the above objects, but not otherwise, the Society may

i. Raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise.

ii. Take and accept gifts of property whether subject to special trusts or not

iii. Sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or funds of the Society as shall be necessary.

iv. Borrow or raise money on such security as the Executive Committee may think fit, but in no case shall the liability of individual members of the Society extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscription.

v. Associate with local authorities, voluntary organisations, and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities for recreation and leisure time occupation with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

vi. Publish papers, reports and other literature

vii. Make surveys, prepare maps and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building within the area of benefit.

viii. Hold meetings, lectures, cultural or leisure time activities or provide sponsorship for other organisations so to do provided that the aims shall in all cases be compatible with the three main objects of the Society.

ix. To do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the above objects.

The Society shall be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

The Society shall have power to affiliate to the National Federation of Community Associations and to other organisations with similar charitable objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society shall be of two kinds

- (a) Individual members who shall be either full, junior or associate members.
- (b) Group members who shall be the constituent bodies and sections.

4. INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP.

Individual membership shall be open, irrespective of political party nationality, religious opinion, race or colour to:

- (a) all persons aged eighteen and over living in the area of benefit who shall be called full members.
- (b) all persons under the age of eighteen living in the area of benefit who shall be called junior members. Junior members shall not have the right to vote at members' meetings but may elect from among themselves two representatives to the general council who shall have the right to vote as full members.
- (c) well-wishers anywhere who shall be called associate members. Associate members shall not have the right to vote at members' meetings but may elect from among themselves one representative to the general council who shall have the right to vote as a full member.

The manner in which associate and junior members elect their representatives shall be approved by the general council.

5. GROUP MEMBERSHIP

- (a) constituent bodies shall be the local statutory authorities and such voluntary organisations as operate in the area of benefit and satisfy the general council that they are independent organisations or branches of independent national or other organisations.
- (b) sections shall be such groups as may, with the permission of the general council, be formed within the association among the individual members for the furtherance of a common activity.

Each constituent body and section shall have the right to appoint one representative to be a member of the general council and at any time by giving notice in writing to the secretary of the Society to revoke the appointment of such a member and to appoint another member in his place. Such a member shall have the right to attend and to vote at general meetings of the Society.

6. TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

The general council shall have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of an individual member or of a constituent body or section provided that the individual member or person representing the body or section shall have the right to be heard by the general council before a decision is made.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

All members and constituent bodies shall pay such subscription as the general council may from time to time determine.

8. THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Subject to the limitations set out in clause 10 hereof, the policy and general management of the affairs of the association shall be directed by the general council which shall meet not less than twice a year.

The general council shall consist of:

- (a) the representatives appointed by constituent bodies and sections in accordance with clause 5.
- (b) such number of representatives of full members, to be elected from among and by themselves at the annual general meeting, as is not less than the number of members appointed under clause 3(a), and not more than twenty.
- (c) two representative of junior members elected in accordance with clause 4(b).
- (d) one representative of associate members elected in accordance with clause 4(c).
- (e) the honorary officers of the Society and of the general council ex officio in accordance with clause 9(a)
- (f) two representatives appointed by the trustees if trustees shall have been appointed in accordance with clause 16.
- (g) such persons employed by or seconded to the Society as the general council may from time to time determine in accordance with clause 9(b).

In addition the general council may co-opt not more than six further members who shall be members of the Society. All members of the general council shall retire annually but shall be eligible to be appointed or co-opted again. The general council shall have power to appoint such sub committees as it may from time to time decide and may determine their powers and terms of reference.

9. OFFICERS. HONORARY OFFICERS.

(a) the annual general meeting shall elect a president, a treasurer and such other officers of the Society such as an honorary secretary as it may from time to time determine. Nominations for these offices shall be made at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting and all nominations shall have been seconded and the consent of the nominee obtained. The General Council shall elect its own chairman and such other officers as it may from time to time determine. The chairman of the general council shall be ex officio chairman of the executive committee.

All honorary officers of the Society and of the general council shall be ex officio members of the executive and all other committees.

(b) the general council shall have power to appoint and dismiss a paid secretary and such other employees of the Society as it may from time to time determine, and such employees shall not have voting rights.

10. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Once in each year the general council shall convene an annual general meeting of the Society in the month of Sept which all individual members and representatives of the constituent bodies and sections shall be entitled to attend, for the purpose of receiving the annual report of the general council and the annual audited statement of accounts; of appointing honorary officers of the Society, of accepting resignations of members of the general council; of electing representatives of full members to serve on the general council; of appointing an auditor or auditors; of making recommendations to the general council and, whenever necessary, of voting on proposals to amend the constitution in accordance with clause 18 hereof. At least 21 clear days notice shall be given in writing by the secretary to all members.

11. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The chairman of the general council or the secretary may at any time at their discretion, and shall within twenty-one days of receiving a written request so to do signed by not less than twenty members having the power to vote and giving reasons for the request, call a special general meeting of the Society for the purpose of altering the constitution in accordance with clause 18 hereof or of considering any matters which may be referred to them by the general council or for any other purpose.

12. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At its first meeting to be held within one month following the annual general meeting in each year the general council shall appoint an executive committee to which it may delegate any or all of its powers as it may from time to time determine.

The Executive Committee shall consist of not more than 12 members elected by and from members of the general council and of the officers of the Society and of the general council hereinbefore provided. One of the aforesaid twelve members shall be a junior member.

The executive committee shall have power to co-opt additional members who shall be members of the Society but need not be members of the general council provided that the number of co-opted members does not exceed one third of the total number of elected and ex officio members. All members of the executive committee shall retire annually but shall be eligible to be appointed or co-opted again.

The executive committee shall have power to appoint such sub-committees as it may from time to time decide and may determine their powers and terms of reference.

13. RULES OF PROCEDURE AT ALL MEETINGS

Voting

(a) subject to the provisions of clause 18, all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote thereat. No member shall exercise more than one vote notwithstanding that he may have been appointed to represent two or more interests but in case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Quorum

(b) one-quarter of the members shall form a quorum at meetings of the general council, the executive and all other committees. Twenty-five members shall form a quorum at general meetings of the Society.

Minutes

(c) minute books shall be kept by the Society, the general council, the executive, and all other committees and the appropriate secretary shall enter therein a record of all proceedings and resolutions.

14. STANDING ORDERS, AND RULES FOR THE USE OF THE CENTRE

The executive committee shall have power to adopt and issue standing orders and/or rules for the use of the centre. Such standing orders and rules shall come into operation immediately, PROVIDED ALWAYS that they shall be subject to review by the general council and shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this constitution.

15. FINANCE

- (a) All moneys raised by or on behalf of the Society shall be applied to further the objects of the Society and for no other purpose.
- (b) the honorary treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of the Society.
- (c) the accounts shall be audited at least once a year by a qualified auditor or auditors who shall be appointed at the annual general meeting.
- (d) an audited statement of accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted by the general council to the annual general meeting.

16. TRUST PROPERTY

The title of all and any leasehold and real property which may be acquired by or for the purposes of the Society shall be vested in trustees who shall be appointed by the general council and who shall enter into a deed of trust setting forth the purposes and conditions under which they hold the said property in trust for the Society. The number of trustees shall not be less than three nor more than five.

17. DISSOLUTION

If the general council by a simple majority decides at any time that on the grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society it shall call a meeting of all members of the Society who have the power to vote and of the inhabitants of the area of benefit of the age of eighteen years and upwards of which meeting not less than twenty-one days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed thereat) shall be posted in a conspicuous place or places in the area of benefit and advertised in a newspaper circulating in the area of benefit and given in writing to the Charity Commissioners.

If such decision shall be confirmed by a simple majority of those present and voting at such meeting the general council shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be applied towards charitable purposes for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area of benefit as the general council may decide and as may be approved by the Charity Commissioners.

18. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Any proposal to alter this constitution must be delivered in writing to the secretary of the Society not less than twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting at which it is first to be considered.

An alteration will require the approval of both

- (a) a simple majority of members of the general council present and voting at a general council meeting;
- (b) a two-thirds majority of individual members and representatives of the constituent bodies and sections of the Society present and voting at a general meeting.

Notice of each such meeting must have been given in accordance with normal procedure but not less than twenty one days prior to the meeting in question and giving the wording of the proposed alteration.

No alteration to clause 2 shall be made without the consent of the Charity Commissioners.

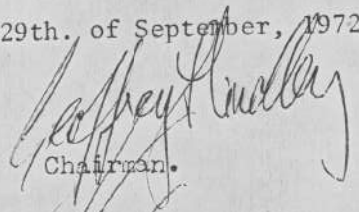
If trustees have been appointed in accordance with clause 16 hereof, an alteration shall not be made without the knowledge and consent of the trustees but such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld by them.

This constitution was adopted as the constitution of

THE DEDDINGTON SOCIETY

at a public meeting duly convened on the 29th. of September, 1972.

signed


Chairman.