

Rules of Paying Membership of Hunstanton & District Civic Society

Introduction and Overview

Hunstanton & District Civic Society (hereinafter called 'the Society') is a Company Limited by Guarantee not having Share Capital, registered in the United Kingdom at Companies House. It is under the management of a Committee consisting of its Directors, Trustees and Members subscribing to the Memorandum of Association (hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee'). Paying Members (as defined below) shall stand for election to the Committee normally at General Meetings of the Society. The regulations of the Society are governed by its Articles of Association and these Rules. The Society is also registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales.

The Committee of the Society, who must be Paying Members as defined below, are aware that the Society is run for the benefit of its Paying Members in carrying out the Objects as laid down in the Articles of Association and therefore believe there must be rules of Membership that apply to them that lay down the relationship between the Society's Committee and the Paying Members. Under clause 33 of the Articles of Association, the Society is authorised to make Rules and Byelaws to deal with any matters they consider appropriate in relation to the Society.

These rules reflect closely those covered in the Articles of Association and are similar to those included in the original Constitution of the Society previously registered with the Charity Commissioners dated 1st December 2009.

Paying Membership

- (1) Paying Membership is open to individuals over sixteen or organisations who are approved by the Committee.
- (2) (a) The Committee may only refuse an application for Paying Membership if, acting reasonably and properly, they consider it to be in the best interests of the Society to refuse the application.
 - (b) The Committee must inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within twenty-one days of the decision.
 - (c) The Committee must consider any written representations the applicant may make about the decision. The Committee's decision following any written representations must be notified to the applicant in writing but shall be final.
- (3) Paying Membership is not transferable to anyone else.
- (4) The Committee must keep a register of names and addresses of the Paying Members which must be made available to any Member upon request taking into account the General Data Protection Regulations pertaining at the time.
- (5) All Paying Members on the original Society's register prior to formation of the new Company will automatically become Paying Members of the new Society.

(6) There are five categories of Membership all of which hold voting rights as indicated.

- (a) Individual Members (one vote)
- (b) Joint Members of two people living at the same address (one vote each)
- (c) Life Members (one vote)
- (d) Honorary Members (one vote). The Trustees may propose and elect a person to be an Honorary Member at any time reflecting a major contribution that person has made to the Society.
- (e) Organisations (one vote)

Membership fees are set by the Trustees from time to time and are published in the Society's Application Form and on the Society's Website.

Termination of Membership

Membership is terminated if:

- (1) the Paying Member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;
- (2) the Paying Member resigns by written notice to the Society;
- (3) any sum due from the Paying Member to the Society is not paid in full within six months of it falling due;
- (4) the Paying Member is removed from Membership by a resolution of the Committee that it is in the best interests of the Society that his or her Membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a Paying Member from Membership may only be passed if:
 - (a) the Paying Member has been given at least twenty one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the Committee at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;
 - (b) the Paying Member or, at the option of the Paying Member, the Paying Member's representative (who need not be a Paying Member of the Society) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

Business at General Meetings and Resolutions

- (1) All general meetings of the Society, including any annual general meeting, are subject to the Company's Articles of Association.

(2) The Committee shall convene in any year a general meeting designated as an annual general meeting, to be held at such date, time and place as the Committee may determine, for such purposes as the rules and byelaws may specify (if any) or otherwise for such purposes as the Committee determine. The business of any annual general meeting shall be set out on the notice of the meeting.

These rules extend attendance at general meetings to include individual, joint, life, honorary and corporate Paying Members of the Society.

Rules regarding Notice, Quorum, the Chair, Adjournments, Voting and Proxy Voting

The rules pertaining to Notice, Quorum, appointment of the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, Meeting adjournments and Voting rights including Proxy voting are all covered in the Articles of Association. Paying Members are, however, entitled to vote on the matters tabled at General Meetings including, but not limited to, acceptance of the Chairman's Report, the Financial Accounts of the Society and election of the Committee of the Society with the same rights as those laid out in the Articles of Association for the Trustees (Committee). Committee Members, who have to be Paying Members of the Society in order to qualify for being Committee members still only have one vote each in respect of any resolution tabled at General Meetings.

Although not mentioned in the Articles of Association, these rules also determine that the Committee shall stand down at each annual general meeting of the Society but are permitted to be nominated and stand for re-election.

Representatives of Other Bodies

(1) Any organisation that is a Paying Member of the Society may nominate any person to act as its representative at any general meeting of the Society.

(2) The organisation must give written notice to the Society of the name of its representative.

(3) The nominee shall not be entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the Society. The nominee may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the Society.

(4) Any notice given to the Society will be conclusive evidence that the nominee is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The Society shall not be required to consider whether the nominee has been properly appointed by the organisation.

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