



# CONSTITUTION

## Revised September 2020

### 1 NAME

The Society shall be called the "The Arts Society Oundle".

### 2 OBJECTS

As a Member Society of The Arts Society, the Society shall have as its objects the promotion and advancement of the aesthetic education of the public, the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts, and the giving of aid to the preservation of our national artistic heritage for the benefit of the public.

### 3 POWERS

For the pursuit and fulfilment of the Society's objects its powers shall include the following:

- (a) The arrangement of lectures for Members of the Society.
- (b) The arrangement of study groups, tours and visits to private houses, museums, exhibitions and other places of interest for Members of the Society.
- (c) The arrangement of related activities of an educational character for children and other members of the public.
- (d) The arrangement of voluntary preservation and recording work by its Members in relation to the decorative and fine arts.
- (e) To purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property or premises including halls or lecture rooms and any rights, privileges or interests which the Society may think necessary for the promotion of the objects.
- (f) To subscribe, donate or guarantee money for any purpose connected with and calculated to advance the objects of the Society.
- (g) To raise and utilise funds for the furtherance of the objects but without the power to pledge the personal liability of any Member for the repayment of any sums borrowed.

### 4 MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Society shall have Ordinary Members and may have Honorary Members if the Committee so decides.
- (b) The Committee shall decide on the number and admission of Ordinary Members. A waiting list shall be maintained for those persons applying for Membership in excess of the permitted number of Members.
- (c) Persons on the waiting list will be admitted to Membership in strict order of the date of application, but in exceptional circumstances priority may be given at the discretion of the Committee.
- (d) The Committee may elect 5 Honorary Members who are distinguished in the decorative and fine arts or who have done valuable work for the Society. An Honorary Member may attend all meetings and events of the Society in the same manner as an Ordinary Member but shall not be liable to pay a subscription, nor be entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Society. An Honorary Member, who at the time of election as such was an Ordinary Member, may elect to remain an Ordinary Member as well and in the event shall continue to be liable to pay a subscription and vote at General Meetings of the Society.

## **5 THE OFFICERS**

(a) The Officers of the Society shall be the Chairman, the Vice Chairman, the Treasurer and the Secretary, all of whom shall be nominated annually by the Committee for election at the Annual General Meeting. They should not hold office in such post for more than five consecutive years. However, this may be extended in special circumstances to ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities.

### **(b) THE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman, or in his/her absence an appointee of the Committee, shall preside at all General Meetings and Committee Meetings of the Society. The decision of the Chairman of the General Meeting upon any question of order, voting, adjournment of the Meeting or interpretation of the Rules of the Society shall be final. The Chairman of any Meeting shall have an additional casting vote in the event of equality of votes on any matter under consideration by the Society. The Chairman shall attend and represent the Society at all General Meetings, Area and National Meetings of the Arts Society or appoint a deputy to attend.

### **(c) HONORARY OFFICERS**

The Committee may appoint Honorary Officers who shall be a President and up to 3 Vice Presidents in recognition of their services to the decorative and fine arts or to the Society. These appointments shall be for a period of five years and may be renewed for a further five years but no Honorary Officer shall hold that office for more than ten years in total. An Honorary Officer shall be entitled to all rights and privileges of Ordinary Members except the right to vote at General Meetings.

## **6. COMMITTEE**

(a) The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Society and administer its funds.

(b) The Committee shall consist of not more than twelve Members including the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.

(c) Any Ordinary Member of the Society may propose or second Members, for election to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations must be given to the Secretary not less than 35 days before the Annual General Meeting. Committee Members shall retire each year but be eligible for re-election.

(d) No Committee Member should serve for more than five years, except in special circumstances.

(e) Casual vacancies amongst the Committee during the year may be filled by the Committee. Persons so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting after the appointment and shall be empowered to vote.

(e) The Committee may co-opt up to four additional Members to the Committee. Co-opted Members shall have the right to attend and speak at Meetings of the Committee but not have the right to vote. Co-opted Members shall be appointed for a specific period not exceeding two years.

(f) The Committee may appoint subcommittees accountable to it for such purposes as it determines.

(g) The Committee may make regulations regarding the conduct of Meetings other than General Meetings, attendance of visitors, charges for visitors and otherwise for the regulation of the Society's affairs.

(h) The Committee shall meet as required and not less than four times each year. A quorum shall consist of over one half of the number of the elected Members of the Committee one of whom should be an Officer.

## **7 FINANCE**

(a) The Society's current financial year will end on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010. There will then be a 6 month period of account ending on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011. Thereafter the financial period of the Society shall end on 30<sup>th</sup> June every year.

(b) An independent Financial Examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, whose duties shall be to examine and report on the annual Accounts of the Society for submission to the Members. The first Examiner shall be appointed by the Committee.

(c) The Treasurer and the Chairman must both be authorised signatories on the Bank Mandate. The Committee may elect other members from the Committee to be included on the Bank Mandate. If one of those elected members retires from the Committee, they must be removed from the Bank Mandate.

- (d) The Treasurer is authorised to allow The Arts Society to take payment of the annual subscription charge for the membership by Direct Debit. Cheques up to and including £500 are only required to have a single signature from any Committee member who is authorised to sign on the Bank Mandate. Above this amount two Officers or other signatories authorised on the Bank mandate are required provided that one of the two persons signing cheques or alternatives shall be the Chairman or Treasurer. Payment by BACS up to £1,000 can be made on the authority of the Treasurer alone. The Treasurer will include a list of BACS payments made each month as part of his/her monthly report to the Committee.
- (e) The Committee shall authorise its Officers to arrange payment and re-imburement of expenditure on behalf of the Society. The funds of the Society will be paid into current, deposit or investment accounts in the name of the Society with such banks, building Societies or investment institutions as the Committee shall agree. Cheques and other instruments shall be signed by not less than two Officers or other signatories authorised by the Committee, provided always that one of the two persons signing cheques or other instruments shall be the Chairman or Treasurer.
- (f) Payment for outings, study days or other events will be due at the time of booking and will not normally be refundable.

## **8 SUBSCRIPTION**

- (a) The subscription for Ordinary Members of the Society shall be such a sum as may be determined by the Committee from time to time. The first payment shall be due on election to Membership and due annually on 30th June in every year.
- (b) A member whose subscription is not paid in full within 28 days of the due date shall therefore cease to be entitled to the rights and privileges of Membership, but may at the discretion of the Committee be reinstated on payment of all arrears.
- (c) The Committee shall have power to charge an entrance fee for Membership of the Society, additional to a Member's subscription.

## **9 ANNUAL MEETINGS**

- (a) The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Committee. Written Notice, including the Agenda, the text and proposers and seconders of any Resolutions shall be given 21 days before the date of the meeting.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- i) To receive the Accounts of the Society, which shall have been examined by the Financial Examiner, and the Report thereon;
  - ii) To receive the Committee's Report on the activities of the past year;
  - iii) To elect Officers and Committee of the Society;
  - iv) To elect an independent Financial Examiner of the Accounts of the Society;
  - v) To consider any Resolutions, duly proposed and seconded, of which due Notice has been given;
  - vi) Informally to discuss any other business with the permission of the Chairman.
- (b) The election of Officers and Members of the Committee shall be by a show of hands, unless there are more candidates than there are vacancies to be filled, in which case the election of such Members shall be by ballot of those present at the meeting.
  - (c) The quorum for General meetings shall be not less than one quarter of the Society's Ordinary Membership.
  - (d) An Extraordinary General Meeting must be convened within 28 days at the request of the Committee or at least 20 Members of the Society. Resolutions to be considered must be given in writing to the Secretary, who will give all the Members 21 days' written Notice of the Meeting, stating time and place of the Meeting which shall be determined by the Chairman and the text of the Resolutions.
  - (e) Except under Rule 9 (b), voting shall be by a show of hands and by simple majority (abstentions, for the avoidance of doubt, not constituting a vote) save where an increased majority and/or majority of those present and entitled to vote is expressly required. In the event of equality of votes, the Chairman of the Meeting shall cast an additional vote. Proxy voting shall not be permitted.
  - (f) In the event of it not being possible to hold the AGM with members present (e.g. the 2020 pandemic restrictions on social gatherings) the Committee will propose an alternative method for voting using an on-line meeting and or postal/email voting.

## **10 RESOLUTIONS**

Notice of Resolutions to be brought forward shall be given in writing to the Secretary at least 35 days prior to the holding of a General Meeting. Any such Resolution shall have been duly seconded and shall be set forth in the Agenda with the name of the proposer and seconder, and shall require a majority of not less than 2/3 of the Members who are present and voting to be passed. Save with the consent of the Committee, a Resolution which does not comply with the foregoing may not be proposed at a General Meeting.

## **11 MEMBERS' ADDRESSES AND DATA PROTECTION ACT**

- (a) Members' details, i.e. names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses, will be processed fairly and lawfully and in accordance with the Society's legitimate activities.
- (b) Members shall notify any changes of address, email or telephone numbers to the Society.
- (c) Members' details will be disclosed to The Arts Society.
- (d) Unless specifically requested not to do so, Members who provide the Society with an email address are taken to have agreed that the Society may send or supply documents and information to them by email.

## **12 AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION AND RULES**

These Rules may be amended by a written Resolution of which due Notice has been given in accordance with Rule 9 (a) and 9 (d) passed at a General Meeting by a majority of Members participating in the vote.

## **13 TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY**

If the conduct or action of any Member shall, in the opinion of the Committee, be injurious to or inconsistent with the character, objects or interests of the Society, the Committee shall, if requested, grant the Member a hearing before it. If the complaint is upheld, the Committee may request in writing such Member to resign. Any Member so requested who does not resign within one month from the date of such a written request shall cease to remain a Member of the Society.

## **14 WINDING UP THE SOCIETY**

If a Resolution to wind up the affairs of the Society shall have been duly proposed and carried at a General Meeting (at which a representative of The Arts Society Executive Committee is present) by at least two-thirds of those present, so much of the assets shall be realised as may be necessary to discharge liabilities of the Society and all the remaining assets shall be made over to such one or more charitable institutions or other associations having charitable status with objects similar to those of the Society as the Committee shall decide.

## **15 WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ASSOCIATION**

- (a) A representative of The Arts Society Executive Committee should be invited to a General Meeting at which withdrawal from The Arts Society is to be proposed. If no reply is received to the invitation then the Meeting shall proceed.
- (b) According to the Constitution and the Rules of The Arts Society, six months' previous written Notice must be given to The Arts Society before a Member Society withdraws from The Arts Society.
- (c) On withdrawal or termination of Membership by The Arts Society, the Society shall cease to be entitled to the use of The Arts Society name and shall cease to be called the "The Arts Society Oundle". The Society shall return to The Arts Society all confidential documentation issued by The Arts Society.

## **16 INTERPRETATION**

In these rules where the context admits the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. The decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation of these Rules shall be final and binding on all Members and guests of the Society. Subject to the provisions of Rule 5(b) as to the General Meeting.