

# **RAINHILL CIVIC SOCIETY**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### 1. **NAME**

The name of the Society is "RAINHILL CIVIC SOCIETY".

### 2. **OBJECTS**

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising Rainhill and surrounding area, which area shall hereinafter be referred to as "the area of benefit"

- (i) To stimulate public interest in the area of benefit,
- (ii) to promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit,
- (iii) to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

In furtherance thereof the Society may:

- (a) Arrange meetings, exhibitions, lectures, visits, publications and other forms of instruction and publicity.
- (b) Make representation to local, governmental, and other authorities and bodies and to appear before any Court, tribunal or enquiry or be represented there or at any other proceedings, and
- (c) Co-operate with other bodies having similar or sympathetic aims or generally to do all such acts as shall further the active and corporate life of the Society and may lawfully be done by a body established only for purposes recognised by the law of England as charitable.

### 3. **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership will be open to all who are interested in the aims of the Society and pay the requisite annual subscriptions.

### 4. **MEETINGS**

The Annual General Meeting shall be held in April or May of each year:

- (a) to receive the Executive Committee's Report and audited accounts to the end of the last preceding financial year,
- (b) to elect the President, Vice Presidents, if any, and members of the Executive Committee,
- (c) to elect one auditor who shall, if possible, be a qualified accountant,
- (d) to deal with any special matters which the Executive Committee desires to bring before the members, and
- (e) to receive suggestions from the members for consideration by the Executive Committee.

The Chairman of the Annual General Meeting shall be the President. In the absence of the President the chair shall be taken by Vice Presidents in order of seniority of service, the Chairman of the Executive Committee or the Vice Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting and an agenda shall be sent to all members not less than fourteen clear days before the meeting. This may be given in writing by any convenient means including electronic communication.

Each individual member shall have one vote at the meeting, except the Chairman who shall have a second, or casting, vote in the case of an equality of votes.

A Special General Meeting may be summoned at any time on fourteen clear days' notice by:-

- (i) The Executive Committee
- (ii) The Secretary upon the written requisition of any twenty members.

## 5. PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENTS

The President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office until the end of the next Annual General Meeting and shall be eligible for re-election.

The Annual General Meeting may also elect up to three Vice Presidents, who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, whereupon they shall be eligible for re-election. The President and Vice Presidents shall be ex officio members of the Executive Committee.

## 6. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting shall elect not more than twenty members to the Executive Committee, who shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting, whereupon they shall be eligible for re-election.

At the first meeting of the Committee after the Annual General Meeting the Committee shall elect the following officers to hold office until the first meeting after the next Annual General Meeting if re-elected to the Committee at that meeting:

Chairman  
Vice Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer

The Committee may fill, by co-option, any vacancies which may occur provided that, excluding the President and Vice Presidents, the membership shall not exceed twenty.

The Committee may regulate their own proceedings by standing order or otherwise as they may think fit.

No action or decision of the Committee shall be invalidated by reason only of informality or neglect in any service of notices or in any matter or matters or procedure, unless in the opinion of the Committee such informality or neglect has resulted or may result in a situation which is unjust.

Any member of the Committee who shall fail to attend three consecutive meetings of the Committee without an explanation, which the Committee (other than the said member) shall consider to be adequate, shall cease to be a member of the Committee.

At least three clear days' notice of a meeting of the Committee shall be given to all its members, unless this requirement is waived by the consent of at least two thirds of its members.

A special meeting of the Committee shall be convened by the Secretary upon the written requisition of a least one third of its members.

At meetings of the Committee each member shall have one vote, the Chairman of the Committee shall have a second or casting vote but shall normally cast that vote in order to enable the matter under consideration to be further discussed.

The presence of one third of the total members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum for Committee meetings.

No individual member shall take action under clause 2 (iii) (b) in the name of the society unless so authorised by the Committee.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions for single and family (*omitted junior*) members shall be set on the recommendation of the Executive Committee by members of the Society at the Annual General Meeting.

A new member's subscription paid after 1st January in any year shall entitle that person to all the privileges of membership, without further payment, until the last day of March of the following year.

The Executive Committee may at any time, without stating any reason, refuse to accept the renewal of the subscription of any member.

8. FINANCE

The financial year shall end on the last day of March in each calendar year. The Executive Committee shall have power to make appeals, solicit donations and canvass monies for carrying out the objects of the Society and shall, out of the monies received by the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society and shall use the residue of such monies as they think fit for or towards the objects of the Society.

A banking account or accounts shall be opened in the name of the Society and withdrawals shall be made in the name of the Society and the signature of the Hon. Treasurer and one of the following;-

1. Chairman
2. Vice Chairman
3. Secretary.

9. PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its objects shall be invested by the Executive Committee upon such investments, securities or property as they think fit.

10. AMENDMENTS

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that fourteen clear days' notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members, and

provided that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment the effect of which would be to cause the Society at any time to cease to be a charity in law.

11. DISSOLUTION

The Society may at any time be dissolved by a resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at a General Meeting of the Society of which at least twenty one days' notice shall have been sent to all members of the Society. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the object of the Society, as the Executive Committee may, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having jurisdiction under the Charities Act 2011 determine.

As amended April 2015