

The Canterbury Society Constitution

1. Name

The name of The Society shall be The Canterbury Society.

Registered Charity No. 1160588

2. Objects

The purpose of the Society shall be to promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means but not otherwise:

2.1 To benefit the current and future citizens of Canterbury by

- * Encouraging high standards of architecture and planning;
- * Protecting and enhancing the quality of the built and natural environment, and the public realm;
- * Promoting the history and heritage of the town;
- * Engaging with other bodies to ensure the future development of the city enhances its heritage and contributes to improving the quality of life of all its citizens;
- * Encouraging civic pride and active citizenship.
- * Protecting and improving their quality of life, including their economic and social well-being.

To pursue these objectives by means of campaigns, meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction and publicity and the promotion of projects of a charitable nature.

2.2 The Society shall seek to maximise the benefit of its activities to citizens and organisations of the town by working in partnership with relevant statutory and voluntary organisations and groups.

2.3 The Society is committed to acting, and being seen to act, as an independent organisation. The Society is a Registered Charity and it shall undertake its activities exclusively by charitable means: it works on a not-for-

profit basis, and any surplus income is ploughed back into the Society. Whilst the Society will necessarily engage in activities which have a “political” character and which may be the subject of local party political debate, it is committed to acting, and being seen to act, as an independent organisation, working in a strictly non-party political manner, as required by its charitable status. This may include, for example, acting as an “honest broker” by organising and chairing political “hustings” during local election campaigns.

2.4 The Society shall be open to all citizens with an interest in Canterbury, whether or not they currently live in the city, and shall be democratically accountable to the membership, with annual elections and subject to the detailed regulations set out below in the Constitution.

2.5 The Officers and Executive Committee of the Society, and the volunteers who come into contact with the public, are all expected to have the highest standards of honesty, integrity, and personal behaviour. The Society is committed to:

- * Open, transparent, accountable and democratic governance;
- * Equality of treatment, and preventing any form of discrimination, in respect of race and gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or belief;
- * Treating other people with respect and having a zero-tolerance policy towards abusive and bullying behaviour;
- * Having a Safeguarding Policy for working with children and vulnerable adults.

3. Membership

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in the aims of the Society. ‘Members’ and ‘membership’ is defined as those that are fully-paid subscribers to the Society.

4. Subscriptions

Annual Renewals - The annual subscription amount shall be determined annually by the Executive Committee. Any proposed changes are to be approved by the membership (to whom due prior notice of the change has

been given) at an Annual General Meeting. Renewal subscriptions become due annually on the day of joining the Society.

* New Members - The subscriptions of new members commence at the date of joining the Society;

* Joint Membership - An amount as approved by members at the Annual General meeting;

* Corporate bodies, including partnerships, societies, companies, education and other similar institutions and organisations may become members; each such body may appoint one nominee that shall have full membership rights.

5. Meetings

The financial year of the Society shall end on 31 May and an **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** shall be held within six months following the end of the financial year. Twenty-one days' notice shall be given in writing to members of the date of an AGM. An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) may be called at any point provided twenty-one days' notice is given in writing to member of the date of an EGM and its purpose.

6. Honorary Officers

The Honorary Officers of the Executive Committee shall consist of:

CHAIR

Deputy-CHAIRS (2)

HONORARY SECRETARY

HONORARY TREASURER

Additional honorary appointments may be made by the Committee according to need.

7. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee members are trustees and shall be responsible for administering the affairs of The Society and make any decisions on its behalf. A quorum for meetings of the Executive Committee shall consist of half its

members. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not more than seven elected members, all of whom shall relinquish office annually and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt members, including holders of additional honorary appointments, who shall be full members of the Executive Committee. Co-opted members may attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint sub-committees as deemed necessary. All sub-committees and holders of additional honorary appointments shall be responsible to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, or any sub-committee which may be appointed, shall have the power to invite persons who may have specialised knowledge to attend any meeting of the Executive Committee or sub-committee in an advisory capacity.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove a member of the Committee or sub Committee in the event of misconduct, non-attendance, or poor performance in carrying out their duties.

8. Elections

All elections shall normally be by ballot. Members unable to attend the Annual General Meeting may make arrangements to vote by post on a form provided by the Honorary Secretary. A President or Vice-President may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society for periods to be decided at such a meeting.

9. Nominations

Nominations shall be sent to the Honorary Secretary twenty-one days before the Annual General Meeting on a form signed by the proposer and seconder, and signifying that the consent of the nominee has been obtained. Each member shall be entitled to send in nominations for the Honorary Officers and for the Executive Committee up to the number of places to be filled.

10. Register

An attendance register shall be kept at all Executive Committee meetings.

11. Appeals

The Executive Committee shall have the power to make appeals, solicit donations and canvass for monies for carrying out the objects of the Society.

12. Expenses of Administration

The Executive Committee shall, out of 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 it thinks fit for, or towards, the objects of the Society.

13. Investment

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 it may think fit, but so that monies subject or representing property subject to the jurisdiction of the Charity Commissioners or of the Secretary of State for Education shall be invested in such securities as may for the time being be prescribed in law.

14. Borrowing

The Executive Committee may borrow for the objects of the Society such monies at such a rate of interest and in such a manner as it may think fit.

15. Declaration of Interest

It shall be the duty of every member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any meeting or the Society (including any meeting of any committee or sub-committee) at which he or she may be present to declare such interest and he or she shall not discuss any item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

16. Probity

The Executive Committee may enter into agreements with individuals or commercial organisations to provide financial support for the Society's activities but in doing so must ensure that the terms of any such agreements do not compromise the Society's independence, fetter its ability to pursue its stated objectives or perceived probity.

17. Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting, provided that ten days' notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members, and providing that nothing contained therein shall authorise any amendment permitting the expenditure of the funds of the Society on any object which is not of a charitable nature.

18. Winding Up

In the event of the winding up of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable bodies having objects similar to those herein declared as may be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.