



# The Petersfield Society

## Constitution

### Name

1. The name of the Society shall be “The Petersfield Society”.

### Aims

2. The aims of the Society shall be to:
  - a) Safeguard and improve the environmental quality of Petersfield and the surrounding countryside; in particular to:
    - i) Encourage the protection of buildings of architectural or historical interest and to ensure that any modification is carried out sympathetically;
    - ii) Ensure that permitted new development is sensitively sited and of harmonious design;
    - iii) Protect the landscape of the area and the features of historical and scientific interest
  - b) Safeguard the environmental amenities enjoyed by people living in or visiting the Petersfield area;
  - c) Enhance communication between local public opinion and local and public bodies;
  - d) Do all such lawful things as may help to achieve these aims.

### Membership

3. Membership shall be open to all persons and organisations within Petersfield and the surrounding parishes or otherwise concerned for the Society’s wellbeing.
4. Members shall not use the style or insignia of the Society, or otherwise use their membership, to directly or indirectly imply endorsement of views expressed in any advertising, publication or other promotional feature without the prior agreement in writing of the Executive Committee.

### Subscription

5. A minimum annual subscription shall be fixed from time to time by the Committee and shall run from the 1st April following ratification at the previous Annual General Meeting (“AGM”). The initial subscription, for persons joining between 31st December and 1st April following, shall cover the unexpired period of the then current subscription year and the whole of the succeeding subscription year.

### Failure to subscribe

6. Any member failing to pay the required subscription within the subscription year shall receive from the Membership Secretary notice calling for payment

within six months; and if payment is not made within that period shall cease to be a member.

### **Resignation**

7. Any member may resign membership by giving notice in writing to the Honorary Secretary, which will take effect the next day following receipt.

### **Officers**

8. The Society's officers shall be:
  - a) A President who shall be elected at the AGM to serve for five years, and be eligible to stand for re-election.
  - b) A Chairman who shall be elected at the AGM to serve for one year, and be eligible to stand for re-election subject to:
    - i) Receiving the votes of two thirds of members present at the Committee meeting before notice of the AGM is given to members.
    - ii) Serving not more than five consecutive years in the role.
  - c) A Vice Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer who shall be elected at the AGM to serve for one year. Each shall be eligible to stand for re-election subject to receiving the votes of two thirds of members present at the Committee meeting before notice of the AGM is given to members.

### **Vice Presidents**

9. Vice Presidents may be appointed by the Committee in recognition of service to the Society. Such appointments shall be subject to confirmation at the next AGM. Vice Presidents shall hold office for life.

### **Executive Committee**

10. The affairs of the Society (except as otherwise provided by these rules) shall be conducted by an Executive Committee ("the Committee") which shall comprise the officers named in Article 7b and nine ordinary committee members. The President and Vice Presidents have the right to attend committee meetings if they so wish.
11. The Committee:
  - a) Shall have full power to act in the name of the Society;
  - b) Shall meet at least four times a year;
  - c) Shall have power to call General Meetings;
  - d) May fill a casual vacancy by co-opting a member. In addition, the Committee may appoint to the Committee for specific purposes up to three members. In either case a member so appointed shall serve until the next AGM.
  - e) May appoint an Assistant Honorary Secretary and other auxiliary honorary officers, who need not be members of the Committee, to carry out special responsibilities.
  - f) May appoint sub-committees for special tasks. Members of a standing sub-committee shall serve until the first Committee meeting following the next AGM. Members of an ad hoc sub-committee shall serve until their task is completed.

- g) Shall have powers to expel any member whose conduct in the opinion of the Committee renders membership inappropriate. No member shall be expelled without having an opportunity of appearing before the Committee to reply to charge(s) and unless at least two-thirds of the Committee present vote in favour of expulsion. Expulsions are to be reported at the next AGM.
- 12. The Chairman and Vice Chairman may attend and vote at meetings of all sub-committees.
- 13. Ordinary Committee members shall be elected at the AGM to serve for a period of three years. They may stand for re-election at any following AGM. Committee members must be elected or re-elected individually.
- 14. Any member of the Committee failing to attend three consecutive Committee meetings without good cause shall be deemed to have resigned from the Committee, and shall not be eligible to stand for re-election for a period of one year.
- 15. Any member of the Committee having a personal interest in any matter for discussion shall declare it and shall withdraw from such discussion unless the Committee decides otherwise.
- 16. The quorum at Committee meetings shall be seven.

### **General Meetings**

- 17. The Honorary Secretary shall give to members in writing at least 21 days notice of all General Meetings.
- 18. A General Meeting can be requisitioned by not fewer than 20 paid-up members submitting motions) in writing to the Honorary Secretary who shall convene the meeting for a date not more than two months after the receipt of such motion(s) and shall attach to the notice of meeting a copy of the motion(s) submitted.
- 19. An AGM shall be held each calendar year at a time and place chosen by the Committee. Any member who wishes to propose a motion or nominate any candidate for election as an Officer or Committee member must submit that motion or nomination in writing to the Honorary Secretary to be received at least seven days before the meeting.
- 20. The purpose of the AGM shall be to:
  - a) Receive an annual report
  - b) Approve the annual accounts duly examined by an approved person
  - c) Elect
    - i) The Officers named in Article 7;
    - ii) One third of ordinary Committee members each year;
  - d) Confirm the appointment of any new Vice President(s);
  - e) Appoint an independent examiner of the Society's accounts;
  - f) Transact any other proper business.

21. The quorum for General Meetings shall be twenty.

**Constitution**

22. This constitution may be amended only at a General Meeting called for that purpose.

**Winding Up**

23. In the event of the winding up of the Society, the disposal of any remaining funds shall be decided at a General Meeting convened for the purpose.

*This constitution document incorporates amendments that were approved by the Society's members at the annual general meeting held on 19 May 2010.*