

The Canterbury Society Constitution

1. Name

The name of The Society is The Canterbury Society.

Registered Charity No. 1160588

2. Objects

i) The Society is established for the public benefit of the area comprising The City of Canterbury and surrounding villages, which shall hereafter be referred to as “the area of benefit”.

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

- a) To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Canterbury
- b) To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the City and surrounding area
- c) To encourage the protection, preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest
- d) To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications, other forms of instruction and publicity and promotion of activities of a charitable nature.

3. Aims

The aims of the Society to promote and encourage the charitable objects are as follows:

3.1 To benefit the current and future residents of the area of benefit by

* Engaging with other bodies to ensure the future development of the area of benefit enhances its heritage and contributes to improving the quality of life of all its residents;

* Encouraging civic pride and active citizenship.

*Protecting and improving their quality of life, including their economic and social well-being.

3.2 The Society seeks to maximise the benefit of its activities to residents and organisations of the town by working in partnership with relevant statutory and voluntary organisations and groups.

3.3 The Society is committed to acting openly 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's activities.

3.4 The Society is open to all residents with an interest in Canterbury, and its committee is democratically accountable to the membership, with annual elections and subject to the detailed regulations set out in this Constitution.

3.5 The officers, committee and volunteers of the Society are required 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, ethnicity, nationality, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, religion or belief;
- * Treating people with respect and having a zero-tolerance policy towards abusive and bullying behaviour;

4. Membership

Membership is open to all who are interested in the aims of the Society. 'Members' and 'membership' is defined as fully-paid subscribers or those appointed by the committee as honorary members.

5. Subscriptions

Annual Renewals - the amount shall be determined by the 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.

- * The subscriptions of members commence at the date of joining the Society.
- * Household/partner memberships - an amount as approved by members at the Annual General meeting;
- * Corporate bodies, including partnerships, societies, clubs, companies, educational establishments and similar organisations may become members. Each such body may appoint one nominee with full membership rights.

6. 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 or by e-mail 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 or by e-mail to members of the date and its purpose.

7. Officers of the Society

The Officers of the society shall consist of:

Chair

Deputy-Chairs (2)

Secretary

Treasurer

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

8. Committee

Committee members are trustees and are responsible for administering the affairs of The Society and make any decisions on its behalf. A quorum for meetings of the Committee consists of at least a half of its members. The 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 Committee shall have the power to co-opt members, including holders of additional appointments, who shall be members of the Committee who may attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity.

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

The Committee shall have the power to remove members of the Committee or working groups in the event of misconduct, non-attendance, poor performance in carrying out their duties or bringing the Society into disrepute.

9. Elections

Elections shall normally be decided by a show of hands at the Annual General meeting. Members unable to attend the Annual General Meeting may request arrangements to vote by email or by post on a form provided by the Secretary. A President or Vice-President may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society.

10. Nominations

Nominations shall be sent to the Secretary at least 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 Officers and for the Committee.

11. Register

An attendance record shall be kept for all Committee meetings.

12. Appeals

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

13. Expenses of Administration

The 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 and aims of the Society.

14. Investment

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its objects shall be kept as reserves for unforeseen circumstances.

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 of the Society (including any meeting of any committee or working group) 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 Chair) or vote thereon.

16. Probity

The 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 Extraordinary 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 shall be transferred to such one or more charitable bodies having objects similar to those herein declared as may be chosen by the Committee and approved by the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.