

THE BAGSHOT SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

1 NAME

The charity's name is The Bagshot Society

2 THE PURPOSES OF THE CHARITY ARE :-

The Society is established as a non-political and inclusive organisation for the public benefit of the village of Bagshot, with the purposes of promoting civic responsibility, conserving the local heritage, natural and built environment. Promote the welfare of the villagers by fostering good communications and constructive relationships with the relevant local and national authorities.

- (1) Stimulate interest and involvement in village affairs, being a focus for debate and campaigns on matters affecting the village.
- (2) Be the focus for the promotion of the heritage, prosperity and future of Bagshot.
- (3) Provide a forum for public debate on major matters affecting the village.
- (4) Formulate constructive views on all matters which affect residents and village life, including planning. Where appropriate, carrying out consultation with interested parties.
- (5) Develop constructive relationships with County, Borough and Parish councils, councillors, government agencies and departments on matters affecting the village.
- (6) Promote, nurture, support and help coordinate local groups and organisations as well as organisations with a similar purpose outside the village.
- (7) Organising occasional social and educational events for the benefit of villagers.

3 COMMITTEE AND TRUSTEES

The charity shall be managed by a committee comprising four 'officers' – Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer - and up to 8 ordinary members who are appointed at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the charity. The Chairman and two other officers will also be elected as Trustees.

4 CARRYING OUT THE PURPOSES

In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the committee have the power to:

- (1) Raise funds, receive grants and donations
- (2) Apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
- (3) Co-operate with and support other charities with similar purposes
- (4) Do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the purposes

5 MEMBERSHIP

- (1) The charity shall have a membership. Anyone who supports the work of the charity and are aged 18 or over, can apply to become a member of the society in their own right. Membership is renewed annually and the committee will maintain an up-to-date membership list.
- (2) Membership fees will be charged to cover the costs of running the society and these will be reviewed and agreed annually at the AGM.
- (3) Membership may be for an individual or all adults in the household and changes to membership categories will be agreed at the AGM
- (4) The trustees may remove a person's membership if they believe it is in the best interests of the charity. The member has the right to be heard by the trustees before the decision is made and can be accompanied by a friend.

6 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - AGM

- (1) The AGM must be held every year, with 14 days notice given so far as possible to all members. The displaying of posters in a number of prominent positions around the village, e-mail and verbal notification will be accepted as appropriate means to achieve this notification. Minutes must be kept of the AGM.
- (2) There must be at least 15 members present at the AGM.
- (3) Every member has one vote.
- (4) The trustees shall present the annual report and accounts and these will be agreed at the AGM.
- (5) Members shall elect 4 Officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and up to 8 committee members to serve for the next year. They will retire at the next AGM but may stand for re-election.
- (6) Any member may stand for election as a committee member.

7 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- (1) There must be at least 3 committee meetings and 2 meetings open to all members of the society each year.
- (2) At least 1 trustee and 3 committee members must be present at the meeting to be able to take decisions. Minutes shall be kept for every meeting.
- (3) If any committee member has a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while this matter is being discussed or decided.
- (4) The committee may make reasonable additional rules to help run the charity. These rules must not conflict with this constitution or the law.

8 MONEY AND PROPERTY

- (1) Money and property must only be used for the charity's purposes.
- (2) The trustees of the society must keep accounts. The most recent annual accounts can be seen by anybody on request.
- (3) Committee members cannot receive any money or property from the charity, except to refund reasonable out of pocket expenses.
- (4) Money must be held in the charity's bank account and all cheques must be signed by 2 trustees. No expenditure above £50 may be incurred without the agreement of a majority of the committee

9 GENERAL MEETINGS

If the committee consider it is necessary to change the constitution, or wind up the charity, they must call a General Meeting so that the membership can make the decision. A General Meeting must also be called if the committee receives a written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting. All decisions require a simple majority. Minutes must be kept of any meeting.

- (1) **Winding up** - any money or property remaining after payment of debts must be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one.
- (2) **Changes to the Constitution** - can be made at AGMs or General Meetings. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.
- (3) **General Meeting** - called on written request from a majority of members.
- (4) Trustees may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership

10 SETTING UP THE CHARITY

This constitution was adopted on 29th May 2012 and replaces the Constitution dated 28th September 2010.