

## CONSTITUTION



### 1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be THE WICKHAM SOCIETY

### 2. AIMS

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising THE PARISH OF WICKHAM which area shall hereinafter be referred to as “the area of benefit”.

- (i) To encourage appropriate high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- (ii) To inform the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture in the area of benefit.
- (iii) To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of the local environment and features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

In furtherance of the said purposes but not otherwise the Society through its Executive Committee shall have the following powers:

- (i) To promote civic pride in the area of benefit.
- (ii) To promote research into subjects directly connected to the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research.
- (iii) To act as a coordinating body and to co-operate with the local authorities, planning committees, and all other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society.
- (iv) To publish papers, reports and other literature.
- (v) To make surveys and prepare maps and plans and collect information in relation to any place, erection or building of beauty or historic interest within the area of benefit.
- (vi) To hold, meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
- (vii) To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in Wickham. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if his or her subscription is in arrears at the time.

### 4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription shall be:

Full members per annum	£6.00
The joint annual subscription for full membership for a married couple shall be	£12.00

or such other reasonable sum as the Executive Committee shall determine from time to time. It shall be payable at the Annual General Meeting or on joining if earlier. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid three months after it is due.

### 5. MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about March of each year to receive the Executive Committee's report and audited accounts and to elect Officers and Members of the Committee. The Committee shall decide when ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held.

Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of fifteen or more members whose subscriptions are fully paid up. Seven members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a Meeting of the Society.

The Committee shall give at least 7 days notice to members of all Meetings of the Society.

### 6. OFFICERS

Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. The elections of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members. Nominees for election as Officers or Committee members shall declare, at the Annual General Meeting at which their election is to be considered, any financial or professional interest known or likely to be of concern to the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Honorary Secretary
- Honorary Treasurer

All of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. A President and Vice Presidents may also be elected at the General Meeting of the Society, for periods to be decided at such a meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies occurring among the Officers of the Society.

## 7. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than two and not more than five other members. The Committee shall have power to co-opt further members (who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity). The Officers and members of the Committee shall normally be residents or work in the area of benefit but the Committee shall have power to co-opt additional from outside the area of benefit. The President and Vice Presidents may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. In the event of an equality in the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place in such manner as shall be determined. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society; out-going members may be re-elected.

The Executive Committee shall meet not less than four times a year at intervals of not more than three months and the Honorary Secretary shall give all committee members not less than seven days notice of each meeting. The quorum shall, as near as may be, comprise one third of the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill up to three casual vacancies occurring among the members of the Executive Committee between General Meetings.

## 8. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee may constitute such sub-committees from time to time as shall be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. The Chairman and Secretary of each sub-committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and all actions and proceedings of each sub-committee shall be reported to and be confirmed by the Executive Committee as soon as possible. Members of the Executive Committee may be members of any sub-committee and membership of a sub-committee shall be no bar to appointment to membership of the Executive Committee. Sub-committees shall be subordinate to and may be regulated or dissolved by the Executive Committee.

## 9. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

## 10. EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The Executive Committee shall, out of the funds of the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society. After the payment of the administration and management expenses and the setting aside to reserve of such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds of the Society shall be applied by the Executive Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the Society.

## 11. INVESTMENT

All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its purposes shall be invested by the Executive Committee in or upon such investments, securities or property as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent by the Charity Commissioners as may for the time being be required by law.

## 12. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society, provided that 28 days notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members, and provided that nothing herein 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.

### 13 NOTICES

Any notice required to be given by these Rules shall be deemed to be duly given if left at or sent by prepaid post addressed to the postal or email address of that member last notified to the Treasurer.

### 14 WINDING UP

The society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society confirmed by a simple majority of members voting at a further Special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous Meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Society is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Society the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed. On dissolution the minute books and other records of the Society shall be deposited with the Civic Trust.