



New Folkestone Society

registered as a charity in England and Wales, no. 270922

CONSTITUTION

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Adopted 19th August 1974, last amended 20th May 2023

1. Name

The name of the Society shall be the New Folkestone Society.

2. Objects

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising Folkestone (except Sandgate), Cheriton & Morehall which area shall hereinafter be referred to as “the area of benefit”.

- i. To stimulate public interest in the area of benefit.
- ii. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in the area of benefit.
- iii. To secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of 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:

1. To promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research.
2. To act as a co-ordinating body and to co-operate with the local authority, planning committees, sanitary, drainage and all other local and statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society.

3. To promote, or assist in promoting, activities of a charitable nature throughout the area of benefit.
4. To publish papers, reports and other literature.
5. 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.
6. To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
7. To educate public opinion and to give advice and information.
8. 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.
9. To take and accept any gifts of property, whether subject to any special trusts or not.
10. To sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or funds of the Society as shall be necessary.
11. To borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions.
12. To do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

3. Membership

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if their subscription is in arrears at the time. Junior members shall be those aged less than 18 years at the time their subscription is due; and they shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society.

4. Subscriptions

The annual Subscription shall be reviewed and determined from time to time by the Executive Committee, with any changes agreed at the next AGM. 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 May 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 and shall give at least 7 days' notice of such meetings to all members.

Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of members representing not less than 10 per cent of the existing membership of the Society and whose subscriptions are fully paid up. 10 members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a Meeting of the Society.

6. Officers

Nomination for the election of Officers shall be made 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:

Chair
Vice Chair *
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer

* if applicable

all of whom shall relinquish their office every year at the Annual General Meeting and can be nominated for re-election.

A President and Vice-Presidents may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society, for periods to be decided at such a meeting. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint new Officers as vacancies occur. The AGM will be conducted in line with the AGM Policy.

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 three and not more than fifteen other members. The Committee shall have power to co-opt further members (who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity).

The President and Vice-Presidents may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting, unless they are also on the Executive Committee. In the event of an equality in the votes cast, the Chair shall have a second or casting vote. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing at least fourteen 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; outgoing members may be re-elected.

The Executive Committee shall meet not less than six times a year at intervals of not more than two months and the Honorary Secretary shall give all members not less than seven days' notice of meeting.

The quorum shall comprise four members of the Executive Committee, two of whom shall be Officers.

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 Chair 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 member of the Executive Committee or any Sub-Committee present at any Committee meeting who has a direct or indirect personal or pecuniary interest in any item discussed to declare such interest. That member shall not discuss such item 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 purpose 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 Commission as may for the time being be required by law or by the special trusts affecting any property in the hands of the Executive Committee.

12. Trustees of Property

Any freehold and leasehold property acquired by the Society, and (if the Executive Committee so directs) any other property belonging to the Society, may be vested in trustees who shall deal with such property as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct. Any trustees shall be at least three in number or a trust corporation. The power of appointment of new trustees shall be vested in the Executive Committee. A trustee need not be a member of the Society but no person whose membership lapses by virtue of paragraph 3 hereof shall thereafter be qualified to act as a trustee unless and until re-appointed as such by the Executive Committee. The Honorary Secretary shall from time to time notify the trustees in writing of any amendment hereto and the trustees shall not be bound by any such amendments in their duties as trustees unless such notice has been given. The Society shall be bound to indemnify the trustees in their duties (including the proper charge of a trustee being a trust corporation) and liability under such indemnity shall be a proper administrative expense.

13. 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 14 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.

14. Notices

Any notice required to be given by these Rules shall be deemed to be duly given to the relevant member(s) if sent via any means using the contact details last notified to the Membership Secretary or Honorary Secretary.

15. 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 a suitable repository determined by the Executive Committee.

History of amendments

- 19 Aug 1974 Constitution adopted.
- 12 Mar 1976 Society became a registered Charity.
- 23 Apr 1994 Article 7 amended as follows:
- to state the Executive Committee shall consist of “not less than three” members other than Officers(Previously five).
 - to append to the quorum requirement at a Committee meeting with “but the minimum shall be five, two of whom shall be Officers”.
- 21 Apr 2018 Article 7 amended to reduce the minimum quorum at a Committee meeting from five to four.
- 20 May 2023 Modernisation and alterations for clarity as follows:
- Minor alterations to clarify text, correct errors and ensure inclusivity through gender neutral phrases.
 - Removed requirement for Committee members to live in the Area of Benefit.
 - Removed 1970s membership price list.
 - Article 12 renamed Trustees of Property to differentiate from Charity Trustees.
 - simplified means of giving notices, allowing for modern methods e.g. electronic notifications.
 - Reference made to policy documents. In light of the requirement for certain policies and risk assessments, these documents will be maintained separately.

