

The Constitution of The Radnorshire Society: 2019

- 1) The name of the Society shall be **The Radnorshire Society**.
- 2) **Charity.** The Society shall operate for the public benefit and be registered as a charity with The Charity Commission.
- 3) **Aims and Objectives.** The aims and objectives shall be:
 - a) To promote the study of all matters relating to the historic County of Radnorshire, both past and present, on a non-political and non-sectarian basis.
 - b) To encourage the discovery and preservation of the County's antiquities, nature, culture and language, and its past and present records.
 - c) To promote and sponsor archaeological excavations and research.
 - d) To collect books, documents, maps, pictures, prints, photographs, and local newspapers, by gift and purchase, and make arrangements for their custody.
 - e) To produce an annual volume of the *Transactions* and occasional publications with relevance to the aims of the Society.
 - f) To arrange lectures and visits to places of interest in accordance with the aims of the Society.
 - g) To co-operate with other bodies having similar aims, by subscription, exchange of publications, joint events and consultations.
 - h) To take any other steps which appear to be desirable to achieve the aims and objectives set out above, including the formation of groups, for example the historic formation of a Field Section, within the constitutional framework of the Society.
- 4) **Powers:** In order to carry out the charitable purposes, the Committee have the power to:
 - a) raise funds, receive grants and donations
 - b) apply funds to carry out the work of the charity
 - c) co-operate with and support other charities with similar aims
 - d) do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the aims
- 5) **Membership.** Membership is open to all private persons and institutional bodies interested in promoting the aims of the Society, upon payment of the current annual subscription, due on each 1st September. Private membership covers everyone in the same household, and entitles that household to one copy of the Society's annual *Transactions* and participation in all its activities. Membership shall lapse and benefits cease when payment has not been received by 1st February of the membership year.
- 6) **Finance.** The financial year of the Society shall run from 1st September to 31st August in the following year. Subscription rates and structure may only be changed by the Annual General Meeting of members. The Society shall keep true and proper accounts showing in detail its income and expenditure, and these accounts shall be audited annually for presentation to the Annual General Meeting.

7) Annual General Meeting.

- a) The Society shall hold its Annual General Meeting before the end of November in each year. At least twenty one days notice of meeting shall be given to all members. The quorum for the AGM and all other general meetings shall be 20 fully paid up members defined as one member per subscription.
- b) At the Annual General Meeting the Executive Committee, including the Officers of the Society, shall be elected from its members. They shall serve in an honorary capacity.
- c) At the Annual General meeting, and on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, members who have contributed significantly to the work of the Society may be elected to the honorary title of Vice-President. Vice-Presidents shall not, *ipso facto*, be members of the Executive Committee or be Trustees of the Society.
- d) An Auditor must be appointed.
- e) At the Annual General Meeting the annual reports of the Officers and of any Group or Groups, and the accounts, duly audited, shall be presented for adoption.
- f) Committee must also call a General Meeting if they receive written request from the majority of members. All members must be given 14 days notice and told the reason for the meeting.
- g) Committee may also call a General Meeting to consult the membership.

8) The Executive Committee.

- a) The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of the Society, together with a maximum of twelve other members.
- b) The Officers of the Society shall be the President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Editor of The Transactions of the Radnorshire Society, and a Librarian. Other members of the Executive Committee may be given particular responsibilities as it deems appropriate.
- c) Meetings of this committee shall be held at least four times each year, and fourteen days notice of the meeting shall be given to Committee members.
- d) All members of the Executive Committee shall be Trustees of the Society with responsibilities as defined by the Charity Commission.
- e) The quorum shall consist of one third of the membership of the Committee.
- f) The President shall act as chairman at Executive Committee meetings. In the President's absence, the Executive Committee shall appoint its own chairman and conduct the business of the Society. It may appoint sub-committees as required and co-opt Executive Committee members as appropriate.
- g) The Executive Committee may call meetings of the Society at not fewer than fourteen days notice.
- h) The Executive Committee may determine Rules for the governance of the Society. These rules shall not form part of the Constitution of the Society and may be amended by the Executive Committee alone.

- 9) **Amendments to the Constitution.** Any amendments or addition to this Constitution shall be effected only by a resolution adopted at a duly convened Meeting of the Society. Notice of motion for any such amendments or addition must be given in writing to the Hon. Secretary of the Society no less than 28 days before the meeting. Any such amendment must be supported by two thirds of the total of eligible votes which shall be no fewer than 30 supporting votes. Eligible votes shall be fully paid up members present at the meeting and be limited to one eligible vote per subscription. No change can be made that would make the organisation no longer a charity.
- 10) **Disposal of the Society's property.** Disposal of the Society's records, property, and assets may only be dealt with by the Executive Committee in accord with the Rules of the Society and of The Charity Commission.
- 11) **Winding up Meeting.** The Society may be dissolved by a resolution passed at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose of which 14 days notice shall have been given to the Members. Such resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Society provided that if property remains after payment of all debts such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Society but shall be given to a charity with similar purposes to this one; and in respect of the Heritage Collection only and the absence of a suitable charity option it be deposited with the County Archives of Powys County Council or their successor authority unless and until a new similar charitable organisation be established for Radnorshire.