

RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY & RECORD SOCIETY

Registered Charity No. 700273

Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 611W

Rules and Constitution as amended 9th May 2019

1. *Name*

The Society, incorporating the former Rutland Local History Society, the former Rutland Record Society, and the former Rutland Field Research Group for Archaeology and History, shall be called *THE RUTLAND LOCAL HISTORY AND RECORD SOCIETY*, hereinafter referred to as 'the Society'. For informal purposes the Society may be known as 'Rutland History Society'.

2. *Aim*

The aim of the Society shall be the advancement of the education of the public in all aspects of the history of the ancient county of Rutland and its immediate area.

In furtherance of this aim, but not otherwise, the Society shall have the following powers:

- a. To encourage the preservation of all types of local records, antiquities and objects of historical interest;
- b. To receive, purchase or otherwise secure the safe custody of such records, antiquities and objects, and to give or lend the same, or copies of them, to the Rutland County Museum or such other proper repository as shall be appropriate;
- c. To encourage and promote research on the history of Rutland and its villages and parishes and the publication of the results, and to issue such other publications as may be thought desirable;
- d. To encourage the local availability of historical resources;
- e. To arrange and promote public lectures, meetings and other events at various places to inform and stimulate interest in history;
- f. To study, survey, record, and encourage the preservation and conservation of buildings or monuments of archaeological, historical or architectural interest and their surroundings;
- g. To advise and assist the appropriate authorities and to co-operate with other bodies having similar interests;
- h. To accept gifts of money or property appropriate to the work of the Society, and to expend money in the furtherance of this work;
- i. To take any other steps which may be thought desirable to further the work of the Society.

3. *Membership*

There shall be the following classes of membership:

- a. Honorary Members, who shall be individuals who have rendered exceptional service towards effecting the aim of the Society. Such Honorary Members shall be exempt from paying the annual subscription, shall receive a free copy of the Society's ordinary publications, and shall enjoy the privileges of Ordinary Membership. They shall be not more than seven in number at any one time.
- b. Ordinary and Joint Ordinary Members, who shall pay the appropriate annual subscription for the time being in force, and shall be entitled to attend and to vote at General Meetings of the Society, and to participate in all the Society's activities. Joint Ordinary Members shall be resident at the same address. One copy of the *Rutland Record* shall be issued per membership for the appropriate year provided that the subscription has been paid.
- c. Institutional Members, who shall be any organisation joining the Society as a body, and shall pay the appropriate annual subscription for the time being in force, and shall be entitled to send representatives to attend and to vote (provided that they shall exercise one vote only) at General Meetings of the Society, and to participate in all the Society's activities. One copy of the *Rutland Record* shall be issued per membership for the appropriate year provided that the subscription has been paid.

All classes of member may introduce guests to the ordinary meetings and activities of the Society upon payment of any appropriate fee.

4. Management

The management of the Society shall be vested in an Executive Committee, or Council, consisting of the President, Chair, Honorary Officers, and elected members. The Council shall not exceed twenty-five in number, of whom seven shall form a quorum.

The officers and members of the Council shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting and shall hold office for one year. They shall be eligible for re-election at the end of that period. The Council shall have the power to fill vacancies by co-option.

The Honorary Officers may include Vice-Chairs, a Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor. The Council may appoint an Honorary Archivist and an Honorary Legal Adviser.

The Council shall have the following powers:

- a. To give effect to the aim of the Society as declared by this Constitution or by any subsequent resolution of the Society within the Constitution, and to exercise the powers of the Society to this end.
- b. To manage the finances of the Society and to propose the rates of annual subscription.
- c. To issue publications in the name of the Society.
- d. To form such sub-committees as it shall consider necessary, to co-opt additional members to any such sub-committee, and to approve the actions and decisions of any such sub-committee.
- e. To elect Honorary Members of the Society.

5. General Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held as soon as practicable after the beginning of the Society's year, which shall begin on 1st May, to receive reports on the work and finances of the Society; to decide the rates of annual subscription; to elect Officers and Members of the Council; to appoint an Auditor where necessary in pursuance of the relevant Charity Commission guidelines; and to transact the general business of the Society.

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Council or on the requisition of one third of the members of the Society.

At least 21 days' written notice of every General Meeting of the Society shall be given to every paid-up member. Fifteen members shall form a quorum at any General Meeting.

6. Amendment of the Constitution

The Constitution may only be amended at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose upon 21 days' notice having been given of the proposed amendment.

Any alteration to the Constitution must receive the assent of not less than two thirds of the members present and voting.

No amendment may be made to the Constitution which would cause the Society to cease to be a Charity at law, and no alteration shall be made to the aim of the Society without the consent of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

7. Dissolution of the Society

The Society may be dissolved by a resolution supported by not less than two thirds of those paid-up members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting called for that purpose of which not less than 28 days' notice shall have been sent to all members of the Society.

If upon the dissolution of the Society there remains any property whatsoever after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities such property shall not be paid to or distributed among the members but shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having aims similar to the aim of the Society as the Council with the approval of the Charity Commissioners shall determine.