

# Friends of Blackburn Cathedral Constitution

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Adopted 11<sup>th</sup> May 2014

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# **Constitution of Friends of Blackburn Cathedral**

Adopted on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of May 2014

## **PART 1**

### **1. Adoption of the constitution**

The association and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with the provisions in Parts 1 and 2 of this constitution.

### **2. Name**

The association's name is The Friends of Blackburn Cathedral (and in this document it is called the charity).

### **3. Objects**

The charity's objects ('the objects') are:

- a) arousing, stimulating and maintaining public interest in the Cathedral;
- b) maintaining, beautifying, improving and adding to the fabric, fittings, ornaments, monuments, services and music of the Cathedral and maintaining and improving the precincts thereof;
- c) providing a means whereby people who have at heart the wellbeing, mission and purpose of the Cathedral can be kept in touch with its life and work and can contribute by prayer to the work of the Cathedral, by personal services in the cause of the Cathedral and its works, and by financial provision of its needs as and when funds are available;
- d) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the charity shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law

### **4. Application of income and property**

(1) The income and property of the charity shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.

- (a) A charity trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of the charity or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the charity.

(b) A charity trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the charity's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 189 of the Charities Act 2011.

(2) None of the income or property of the charity may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of the charity. This does not prevent a member who is not also a trustee from receiving:

(a) a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity;

(b) reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to the charity.

## **5. Benefits and payments to charity trustees and connected persons**

### **(1) General provisions**

No charity trustee or connected person may:

(a) buy or receive any goods or services from the charity on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;

(b) sell goods, services or any interest in land to the charity;

(c) be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, the charity;

(d) receive any other financial benefit from the charity; unless the payment is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause, or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission ('the Commission').

In this clause, a 'financial benefit' means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

### **(2) Scope and powers permitting trustees' or connected persons' benefits**

(a) A charity trustee or connected person may receive a benefit from the charity in the capacity of a beneficiary of the charity provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way

(b) A charity trustee or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to the charity where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 185 of the Charities Act 2011.

(c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause a charity trustee or connected person may provide the charity with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the charity by the charity trustee or connected person.

- (d) A charity trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to the charity at a reasonable and proper rate which must be not more than the Bank of England bank rate (also known as the base rate).
- (e) A charity trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to the charity. The amount of the rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The charity trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.
- (f) A charity trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of the charity on the same terms as members of the public.

### **(3) Payment for supply of goods only: controls**

The charity and its charity trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause 2(c) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between the charity and the charity trustee or connected person supplying the goods ('the supplier') under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the charity.
- (b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
- (c) The other charity trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of the charity to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a charity trustee or connected person. In reaching that decision the charity trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a charity trustee or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- (d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to the charity
- (e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of charity trustees is present at the meeting.
- (f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the charity trustees in the minute book.
- (g) A majority of the charity trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 5.

(4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:

- (a) 'the charity' includes any company in which the charity:

- (i) holds more than 50% of the shares; or
- (ii) controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
- (iii) has the right to appoint one or more trustees to the board of the company.

(b) 'connected person' includes any person within the definition set out in clause 34 (Interpretation).

## **6. Dissolution**

(1) If the members resolve to dissolve the charity the trustees will remain in office as charity trustees and be responsible for winding up the affairs of the charity in accordance with this clause.

(2) The trustees must collect in all the assets of the charity and must pay or make provision for all the liabilities of the charity.

(3) The trustees must apply any remaining property or money:

- (a) directly for the objects;
- (b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes the same as or similar to the charity;
- (c) in such other manner as the Charity Commission for England and Wales ('the Commission') may approve in writing in advance.

(4) The members may pass a resolution before or at the same time as the resolution to dissolve the charity specifying the manner in which the trustees are to apply the remaining property or assets of the charity and the trustees must comply with the resolution if it is consistent with paragraphs (a) to (c) inclusive in sub-clause (3) above.

(5) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the charity (except to a member that is itself a charity).

(6) The trustees must notify the Commission promptly that the charity has been dissolved. If the trustees are obliged to send the charity's accounts to the Commission for the accounting period which ended before its dissolution, they must send the Commission the charity's final accounts.

## **7. Amendment of constitution**

(1) The charity may amend any provision contained in Part 1 of this constitution provided that:

- (a) no amendment may be made that would have the effect of making the charity cease to be a charity at law;
- (b) no amendment may be made to alter the objects if the change would undermine or work against the previous objects of the charity;

(c) no amendment may be made to clauses 4 or 5 without the prior written consent of the Commission;

(d) any resolution to amend a provision of Part 1 of this constitution is passed by not fewer than two thirds of the members present and voting at a general meeting.

(2) Any provision contained in Part 2 of this constitution may be amended, provided that any such amendment is made by resolution passed by a simple majority of the members present and voting at a general meeting.

(3) A copy of any resolution amending this constitution shall be sent to the Commission within twenty one days of its being passed.

## **PART 2**

### **8. Membership**

(1) Membership is open to individuals over the age of eighteen, or organisations who are in sympathy with the object of the charity and shall consist of:

(a) Life Members; individual or joint (up to two individuals at the same address) making a single agreed minimum subscription

(b) Annual Members; individual or joint (up to two individuals at the same address) making an agreed annual minimum subscription

(c) Corporate Members; parochial church councils, schools, colleges, businesses, and other corporate bodies making an agreed annual minimal subscription

(2) Non-Executive Officers:

(a) The charity shall be empowered to invite a person or persons, one of whom shall be the Bishop of Blackburn, to become Patron of the charity

(b) The President of the charity shall be the Dean of Blackburn

(c) The Annual General Meeting may elect Vice Presidents of the charity, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Annual Meeting, and shall not have any executive authority, nor, unless they are qualified as a Member under this clause 8, the right to vote at any Annual General Meeting

(3) Membership is not transferable to anyone else.

(4) The trustees must keep a register of names and addresses of the members which may be made available to any member upon request.

(5) Subscriptions for each member class shall be fixed from time to time at the Annual General Meeting, following a recommendation from the Council as notified beforehand to members.

### **9. Termination of membership**

Membership is terminated if:

(1) the member dies or, if it is an organisation, ceases to exist;

(2) the member resigns by written notice to the charity unless, after the resignation, there would be fewer than two members;

(3) any sum due from the member to the charity is not paid in full within six months of its falling due;



(4) the member is removed from membership by a resolution of the trustees that it is in the best interests of the charity that his or her membership is terminated. A resolution to remove a member from membership may only be passed if:

(a) the member has been given at least twenty one days' notice in writing of the meeting of the trustees at which the resolution will be proposed and the reasons why it is to be proposed;

(b) the member or, at the option of the member, the member's representative (who need not be a member of the charity) has been allowed to make representations to the meeting.

## **10. General meetings**

(1) The charity must hold a general meeting not later than the next 31<sup>st</sup> May after the adoption of this constitution.

(2) An annual general meeting must be held in each subsequent year and not more than fifteen months may elapse between successive annual general meetings, to transact the following business;

(a) to receive a report from the charity

(b) to receive the accounts for the financial year preceding the Annual General Meeting

(c) to elect the Officers and charity members

(d) to appoint an Honorary Auditor

(e) to appoint an Honorary Solicitor

(f) to Consider any motion of which twenty one days prior notice shall have been given in writing to the Honorary Secretary and included in the notice of the meeting sent by the Honorary Secretary to the members and trustees

(g) to transact any other business in which the opinion of the Chair shall be properly discussed at the meeting

(3) All general meetings other than annual general meetings shall be called special general meetings.

(4) The trustees may call a special general meeting at any time.

(5) The trustees must call a special general meeting if requested to do so in writing by at least thirty members or one fifth of the membership, whichever is the greater. The request must state the nature of the business that is to be discussed. If the trustees fail to hold the meeting within twenty-eight days of the request, the members may proceed to call a special general meeting but in doing so they must comply with the provisions of this constitution.

## **11. Notice**

- (1) The minimum period of notice required to hold any general meeting of the charity is fourteen clear days from the date on which the notice is deemed to have been given.
- (2) A general meeting may be called by shorter notice, if it is so agreed by all the members entitled to attend and vote.
- (3) The notice must specify the date, time and place of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted. If the meeting is to be an annual general meeting, the notice must say so.
- (4) The notice must be given to all the members and to the trustees to the address recorded in the register of the charity.

## **12. Quorum**

- (1) No business shall be transacted at any general meeting unless a quorum is present.
- (2) A quorum is twenty members entitled to vote upon the business to be conducted at the meeting.
- (3) The authorised representative of a member organisation shall be counted in the quorum.
- (4) If:
  - (a) a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting; or
  - (b) during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present,

the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the trustees shall determine.

- (5) The trustees must re-convene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the re-convened meeting stating the date time and place of the meeting.
- (6) If no quorum is present at the re-convened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

## **13. Chair**

- (1) General meetings shall be chaired by the person who has been elected as Chair.
- (2) If there is no such person or he or she is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting a trustee nominated by the trustees shall chair the meeting.
- (3) If there is only one trustee present and willing to act, he or she shall chair the meeting.
- (4) If no trustee is present and willing to chair the meeting within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding it, the members present and entitled to vote must choose one of their number to chair the meeting.

#### **14. Adjournments**

- (1) The members present at a meeting may resolve that the meeting shall be adjourned.
- (2) The person who is chairing the meeting must decide the date time and place at which meeting is to be re-convened unless those details are specified in the resolution.
- (3) No business shall be conducted at an adjourned meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at the meeting had the adjournment not taken place.
- (4) If a meeting is adjourned by a resolution of the members for more than seven days, at least seven clear days' notice shall be given of the re-convened meeting stating the date time and place of the meeting.

#### **15. Votes**

- (1) Each member shall have one vote but if there is an equality of votes the person who is chairing the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to any other vote he or she may have.
- (2) A resolution in writing signed by each member (or in the case of a member that is an organisation, by its authorised representative) who would have been entitled to vote upon it had it been proposed at a general meeting shall be effective. It may comprise several copies each signed by or on behalf of one or more members.
- (3) Voting shall be by show of hands only unless a ballot is demanded by not less than fifteen members present, except that voting on appointments of trustees shall be by ballot.
- (4) Nominations to fill vacancies among the elected members of the charity shall be in writing, signed by the proposer and countersigned by the nominee, so as to reach the Secretary by not less than 7 days before the Annual General Meeting.
- (5) In respect of the Chair's direction as to how a ballot is to be taken, his or her declaration as to the result of any voting and his or her decision on any question of procedure or point of order at a General Meeting shall be considered final. In the event of an equal vote the Chair shall have a second or casting vote. No vote may be cast by proxy.

#### **16. Representatives of other bodies**

- (1) Any organisation that is a member of the charity may nominate any person to act as its representative at any meeting of the charity.
- (2) The organisation must give written notice to the charity of the name of its representative. The nominee shall not be entitled to represent the organisation at any meeting unless the notice has been received by the charity. The nominee may continue to represent the organisation until written notice to the contrary is received by the charity.

(3) Any notice given to the charity will be conclusive evidence that the nominee is entitled to represent the organisation or that his or her authority has been revoked. The charity shall not be required to consider whether the nominee has been properly appointed by the organisation.

## **17. Officers and trustees**

(1) The charity and its property shall be managed and administered by a committee comprising the officers and other members elected in accordance with this constitution. The officers and other members of the committee shall be the trustees of the Charity and in this constitution are together called 'the trustees'.

(2) The charity committee shall have the following officers:

**(a) A Chair,**

**(b) A Vice Chair**

**(c) An Honorary Secretary**

**(d) An Honorary Treasurer**

(e) An honorary Membership Secretary which office may be filled by the Honorary Treasurer

(f) A clerical member of the Administrative Chapter of the Cathedral, appointed by the Administrative Chapter

(g) A representative nominated by the Bishop's Council

(h) Nine members, one third of whom shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting each year to serve for three years and on expiry of their terms of office shall be eligible for re-election. The three retiring in rotation each year shall be those who have been the longest in office since their election (if necessary chosen in alphabetical order)

(3) A trustee must be a member of the charity or the nominated representative of an organisation that is a member of the charity.

(4) No one may be appointed a trustee if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of clause 20.

(5) The number of trustees shall be not fewer than three but (unless otherwise determined by a resolution of the charity in general meeting) shall not be more than seven.

(6) The first trustees (including officers) shall be those persons elected as trustees and officers at the meeting at which this constitution is adopted.

(7) A trustee may not appoint anyone to act on his or her behalf at meetings of the trustees.

(8) The committee may from time to time co-opt for a period not exceeding three years, not more than three members having special knowledge or experience to fulfil a special function.

(9) The Council shall have the right to appoint one or more members to fill casual vacancies occurring amongst members of the charity. A member so appointed shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and thereafter with the consent of the annual General Meeting for the remainder of the unexpired term to which the vacancy relies.

(10) The committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more members of the charity for the purpose of making an enquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the charity would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee; providing that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committee shall be fully and promptly reported to the committee.

(11) The committee shall meet at least three times each year and a special meeting may at any time be summoned;

(a) by the Chair (or by the Vice Chair in the absence of the Chair) or

(b) by the Secretary at the request of any six members of the charity

Upon not less than seven clear days' notice in writing being given to the other member of the charity of the matters to be discussed.

(12) At a meeting there shall be a quorum when six members of the committee are present. If at any time a sufficient number of members to form a quorum is not present, that meeting shall stand adjourned sine die and a special meeting shall be summoned by the Chair or Vice Chair. Every matter shall be determined by a majority of the members present and voting on the question. In the case of equality of votes, the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

## **18. Appointment of trustees**

(1) The charity in general meeting shall elect the officers and the other trustees who shall be seven in number shall comprise:

- a. the Chair
- b. the Vice-Chair
- c. the Honorary Secretary
- d. the Honorary Treasurer
- e. three members of the committee appointed and serving in accordance with sub-paragraph (3) below.

(2) The trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act as a trustee. Subject to sub-clause 5(b) of this clause, they may also appoint trustees to act as officers.

(3) Each of the trustees shall retire with effect from the conclusion of the annual general meeting next after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that annual general meeting, save for officers under 17 (2) (f) and (g) above, both of whom shall hold office for three years after which they may be re-nominated for further three year periods. Three members of the previous Executive Committee with the longest continuous length of service within the charity and other than the officers, shall be appointed trustees upon the adoption of this constitution. At the Annual General Meeting next following, those three members shall retire as trustees. A further group of three members chosen by reference to length of service before and after the option of this constitution, shall be appointed trustees for the following year. Any retiring member of the committee other than the officers referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above shall be eligible for re-election to the committee but shall not continue as a trustee in the case of such an election. In case of any doubt as to the respective terms of office of the officers elected under this sub-clause, the decision of the Chair of the meeting shall be final.

(4) No-one may be elected a trustee or an officer at any annual general meeting unless prior to the meeting the charity is given a notice that:

(a) is signed by a member entitled to vote at the meeting;

(b) states the member's intention to propose the appointment of a person as a trustee or as an officer;

(c) is signed by the person who is to be proposed to show his or her willingness to be appointed.

(5) (a) The appointment of a trustee, whether by the charity in general meeting or by the other trustees, must not cause the number of trustees to exceed any number fixed in accordance with this constitution as the maximum number of trustees.

(b) The trustees may not appoint a person to be an officer if a person has already been elected or appointed to that office and has not vacated the office.

## **19. Powers of trustees**

(1) The trustees must manage the business of the charity and have the following powers in order to further the objects (but not for any other purpose):

(a) to raise funds. In doing so, the trustees must not undertake any taxable permanent trading activity and must comply with any relevant statutory regulations;

(b) to buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;

(c) to sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to the charity. In exercising this power, the trustees must comply as appropriate with sections 117 to 122 of the Charities Act 2011;

(d) to borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of the property belonging to the charity as security for repayment of the money borrowed. The trustees must comply as appropriate with sections 124 to 126 of the Charities Act 2011, if they intend to enter into a legal charge over land belonging to the charity;

(e) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities and to exchange information and advice with them;

(f) to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any of the charitable purposes included in the objects;

(g) to acquire, merge with or enter into any partnership or joint venture arrangement with any other charity formed for any of the objects;

(h) to set aside income as a reserve against future expenditure but only in accordance with a written policy about reserves;

(i) to obtain and pay for such goods and services as are necessary for carrying out the work of the charity;

(j) to open and operate such bank and other accounts as the trustees consider to be necessary and to invest funds and to delegate the management of funds in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do by the Trustee Act 2000;

(k) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects.

(2) No alteration of this constitution or any special resolution shall have retrospective effect to invalidate any prior act of the trustees.

(3) Any meeting of trustees at which a quorum is present at the time the relevant decision is made may exercise all the powers exercisable by the trustees.

## **20. Disqualification and removal of trustees**

A trustee shall cease to hold office if he or she:

(1) is disqualified from acting as a trustee by virtue of sections 178 and 179 of the Charities Act 2011 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision);

(2) ceases to be a member of the charity;

(3) in the written opinion, given to the company, of a registered medical practitioner treating that person, has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a trustee and may remain so for more than three months;

(4) resigns as a trustee by notice to the charity (but only if at least two trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or

(5) is absent without the permission of the trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated.

## **21. Proceedings of trustees**

(1) The trustees may regulate their proceedings as they think fit, subject to the provisions of this constitution.

(2) Any trustee may call a meeting of the trustees.

(3) The secretary must call a meeting of the trustees if requested to do so by a trustee.

(4) Questions arising at a meeting must be decided by a majority of votes.

(5) In the case of an equality of votes, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

(6) No decision may be made by a meeting of the trustees unless a quorum is present at the time the decision is purported to be made.

(7) The quorum shall be two or the number nearest to one-third of the total number of trustees, whichever is the greater or such larger number as may be decided from time to time by the trustees.

(8) A trustee shall not be counted present in the quorum when any decision is made about a matter upon which that trustee is not entitled to vote.

(9) If the number of trustees is less than the number fixed as the quorum, the continuing trustees or trustee may act only for the purpose of filling vacancies or of calling a general meeting.

(10) The person elected as the Chair shall chair meetings of the trustees.

(11) If the Chair is unwilling to preside or is not present within ten minutes after the time appointed for the meeting, the trustees present may appoint one of their number to chair that meeting

(12) The person appointed to chair meetings of the trustees shall have no functions or powers except those conferred by this constitution or delegated to him or her in writing by the trustees.

(13) A resolution in writing signed by all the trustees entitled to receive notice of a meeting of trustees or of a committee of trustees and to vote upon the resolution shall be as valid and effectual as if it had



been passed at a meeting of the trustees or (as the case may be) a committee of trustees duly convened and held.

(14) The resolution in writing may comprise several documents containing the text of the resolution in like form each signed by one or more trustees.

## **22. Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties**

A charity trustee must:

(1) declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with the charity or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the charity which has not been previously declared; and

(2) absent himself or herself from any discussions of the charity trustees in which it is possible that a conflict will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of the charity and any personal interest (including but not limited to any personal financial interest). Any charity trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the charity trustees on the matter.

## **23. Saving provisions**

(1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the charity trustees, or of a committee of the charity trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a charity trustee:

(a) who is disqualified from holding office;

(b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by this constitution to vacate office;

(c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise; if, without the vote of that charity trustee and that charity trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the charity trustees at a quorate meeting.

(2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a charity trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the charity trustees or of a committee of charity trustees if, but for sub-clause (1), the resolution would have been void, or if the charity trustee has not complied with clause 22 (Conflicts of interests and conflicts of loyalties).

## **24. Delegation**

(1) The trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee of two or more members of the committee whether trustees or not provided always that there shall be at least one trustee as a member of that sub-committee, but the terms of any such delegation must be recorded in the minute book.

(2) The trustees may impose conditions when delegating, including the conditions that:

(a) the relevant powers are to be exercised exclusively by the committee to whom they delegate;

(b) no expenditure may be incurred on behalf of the charity except in accordance with a budget previously agreed with the trustees.

(3) The trustees may revoke or alter a delegation.

(4) All acts and proceedings of any committees must be fully and promptly reported to the trustees.

## **25. Irregularities in proceedings**

(1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all acts done by a meeting of Trustees, or of a committee of trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a trustee:

(a) who was disqualified from holding office;

(b) who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office;

(c) who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interests or otherwise; if, without:

(d) the vote of that trustee; and

(e) that trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the trustees at a quorate meeting.

(2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the trustees or of a committee of trustees if the resolution would otherwise have been void.

(3) No resolution or act of

(a) the trustees

(b) any committee of the trustees

(c) the charity in general meeting

shall be invalidated by reason of the failure to give notice to any trustee or member or by reason of any procedural defect in the meeting unless it is shown that the failure or defect has materially prejudiced a member or the beneficiaries of the charity.

## **26. Minutes**

The trustees must keep minutes of all:

- (1) appointments of officers and trustees made by the trustees;
- (2) proceedings at meetings of the charity;
- (3) meetings of the trustees and committees of trustees including:
  - (a) the names of the trustees present at the meeting;
  - (b) the decisions made at the meetings; and
  - (c) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

## **27. Accounts, Annual Report, Annual Return**

(1) The trustees must comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 2011 with regard to:

- (a) the keeping of accounting records for the charity;
- (b) the preparation of annual statements of account for the charity;
- (c) the transmission of the statements of account to the Commission;
- (d) the preparation of an Annual Report and its transmission to the Commission;
- (e) the preparation of an Annual Return and its transmission to the Commission.

(2) Accounts must be prepared in accordance with the provisions of any Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Commission, unless the trustees are required to prepare accounts in accordance with the provisions of such a Statement prepared by another body.

## **28. Registered particulars**

The trustees must notify the Commission promptly of any changes to the charity's entry on the Central Register of Charities.

## **29. Property**

(1) The trustees must ensure the title to:

- (a) all land held by or in trust for the charity that is not vested in the Official Custodian of Charities; and

(b) all investments held by or on behalf of the charity, is vested either in a corporation entitled to act as custodian trustee or in not less than three individuals appointed by them as holding trustees.

(2) The terms of the appointment of any holding trustees must provide that they may act only in accordance with lawful directions of the trustees and that if they do so they will not be liable for the acts and defaults of the trustees or of the members of the charity.

(3) The trustees may remove the holding trustees at any time.

### **30. Repair and insurance**

The trustees must keep in repair and insure to their full value against fire and other usual risks all the buildings of the charity (except those buildings that are required to be kept in repair and insured by a tenant). They must also insure suitably in respect of public liability and employer's liability.

### **31. Notices**

(1) Any notice required by this constitution to be given to or by any person must be:

(a) in writing; or

(b) given using electronic communications.

(2) The charity may give any notice to a member either:

(a) personally; or

(b) by sending it by post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the member at his or her address; or

(c) by leaving it at the address of the member; or

(d) by giving it using electronic communications to the member's address.

(3) A member who does not register an address with the charity or who registers only a postal address that is not within the United Kingdom shall not be entitled to receive any notice from the charity.

(4) A member present in person at any meeting of the charity shall be deemed to have received notice of the meeting and of the purposes for which it was called.

(5) (a) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

(b) Proof that a notice contained in an electronic communication was sent in accordance with guidance issued by the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given.

(c) A notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after the envelope containing it was posted or, in the case of an electronic communication, 48 hours after it was sent.

### **32. Rules**

(1) The trustees may from time to time make rules or bye-laws for the conduct of their business.

(2) The bye-laws may regulate the following matters but are not restricted to them:

(a) the admission of members of the charity (including the admission of organisations to membership) and the rights and privileges of such members, and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members;

(b) the conduct of members of the charity in relation to one another, and to the charity's employees and volunteers;

(c) the setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the charity's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes;

(d) the procedure at general meeting and meetings of the trustees in so far as such procedure is not regulated by this constitution;

(e) the keeping and authenticating of records. (If regulations made under this clause permit records of the charity to be kept in electronic form and requires a trustee to sign the record, the regulations must specify a method of recording the signature that enables it to be properly authenticated.)

(f) generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of the rules of an unincorporated association.

(3) The charity in general meeting has the power to alter, add to or repeal the rules or bye-laws.

(4) The trustees must adopt such means as they think sufficient to bring the rules and bye-laws to the notice of members of the charity.

(5) The rules or bye-laws shall be binding on all members of the charity. No rule or bye-law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, this constitution.

### **33. Disputes**

If a dispute arises between members of the charity about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

### **34. Interpretation**

In this constitution 'connected person' means:

- (1) a child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the trustee;
- (2) the spouse or civil partner of the trustee or of any person falling within sub-clause (1) above;
- (3) a person carrying on business in partnership with the trustee or with any person falling within sub-clause (1) or (2) above;
- (4) an institution which is controlled –
  - (a) by the trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clause (1), (2), or (3) above; or
  - (b) by two or more persons falling within sub-clause (4)(a), when taken together
- (5) a body corporate in which –
  - (a) the charity trustee or any connected person falling within sub-clauses (1) to (3) has a substantial interest; or
  - (b) two or more persons falling within sub-clause (5)(a) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.
- (6) Sections 350 to 352 of the Charities Act 2011 shall apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this clause.

Adopted by the Annual General Meeting on the 11th day of May 2014.