

Chesterfield and District Civic Society

Constitution

(Adopted November 2016)

1 Name

The name of the Society shall be the Chesterfield and District Civic Society.

2 Objects

The Society is established for the public benefit in the area comprising (a) the Borough of Chesterfield (including the civil parishes of Brimington and Staveley) and (b) other civil parishes lying within the area of the former ancient parish of Chesterfield (i.e. the six civil parishes of Brampton, Calow, Grassmoor, Hasland & Winsick, Holymoorside & Walton, Temple Normanton and Wingerworth) within North East Derbyshire District.

- (a) To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
- (b) To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of benefit.
- (c) 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 Committee shall have the following powers:

- (a) To promote civic pride in the area of benefit;
- (b) To promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society and to publish the results of any such research.
- (c) To act as a coordinating body and to cooperate with the local authorities, planning committees and all other statutory bodies, voluntary organisations, charities and persons having aims similar to those of the Society;
- (d) To promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature throughout the area of benefit;
- (e) To publish papers, reports and other literature;

- (f) 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;
- (g) To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.

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 he subscription is in arrears at the time. The subscription of a member joining the Society in the three months preceding 1 April in any year shall be regarded as covering membership for the Society's year commencing on 1 April following the date joining the Society. There shall be no life members, except those who were private or corporate life members before 1 April 1978.

4 Subscriptions

The annual subscription shall be:

Corporate members £25.00

Individual members £10.00

Family members (two or more members resident at the same address) £15.00

Affiliated organisations £10.00 (or £5.00 for organisations with fewer than one hundred members)

or such reasonable sum as the Committee shall determined from time to time and its shall be payable on or before 1 April each year. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid six months after it is due and a reminder has been issued. Corporate members may be represented by three persons at any one time.

5 Meetings

An Annual General Meeting shall be held every calendar year, not more than fifteen months after the previous one, to receive the Committee's report and 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 seven days' notice of such meetings to all members.

6 Officers

Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by the seconder and

the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. The election of Officer shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members. Nominees for election as Officer 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-President may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Society, for periods to be decided at such a meeting. The Committee shall have power to fill casual vacancies among Officers of the Society.

7 The Committee

The Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. The Committee shall consist of the Officers, a maximum of twelve other individual members of the Society, and one representative of each Affiliated Organisation nominated by that organisation. 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 resident or work in the area of benefit but the Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members from outside the area of benefit. The President and Vice-President may attend any meeting of the Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. In the event of an equality of votes cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote. Nominations for election to the Committee shall be made in writing at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first be obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies a ballot shall take place in such a manner as shall be determined. Members of the Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society, outgoing members may be re-elected. The 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 each meeting. The quorum shall, as near as may be, comprise one third of the members of the Committee.

8 Sub-Committees

The 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 Committee and all actions

and proceedings of each sub-committee shall be reported to and confirmed by the Committee as soon as possible. Members of the Committee may be members of any sub-committee and membership of a sub-committee shall be no bar to appointment to membership of the Committee. Sub-committees shall be subordinate to and may be regulated by or dissolved by the Committee.

9 Declaration of interest

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

10 Expenses of administration and application of funds

The 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 convenient, the remaining funds of the Society shall be applied by the 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 Committee in or upon such investments, securities or property as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent, whether by the Charities Commissioners or the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families as may for the time being be required by law or by special trusts affecting any property in the hands of the Committee.

12 Trustees

Any freehold or leasehold property acquired by the Society shall, and if the Committee so directs, any other property belonging to the Society may be vested in the trustees who shall deal with such property as the Committee shall direct. Any trustees shall be at least three in number or a trust corporation. 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 trustees unless and until reappointed as such by the 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 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 an indemnity shall be a proper administration expense.

13 Amendments

The 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 ten 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 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 given if left at or sent by prepaid post addressed to the address of that member last notified to the Society.

15 Winding-up

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of all members, voting in person or by proxy given to the chairman or another member, at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society, confirmed by a simple majority of all members, voting in person or by proxy given to the chairman or another member, at a further Special General Meeting held not less than fourteen days after the previous meeting. No motion to dissolve the Society shall be considered at any meeting unless notice of the motion has been given in writing (either by post or by electronic mail) to all members not less than fourteen days before the date of the meeting. If the Society is dissolved, its remaining funds shall be transferred to another registered charity (or other charities) having objects similar or reasonably similar within the same or reasonably similar area of benefit to those of the Society. The name (or names) of such charity (or charities) shall be proposed by the Committee and approved by the meeting of the Society at which the dissolution is confirmed. The name (or names) of such charity (or charities) shall be given in the notice of such a meeting. The records of the society shall on dissolution be donated to the Derbyshire Record Office, which shall have power to dispose of those which it does not consider worthy of permanent preservation.