

# THE ARTS SOCIETY SEVERN VALLEY (Member Society of The Arts Society)

## CONSTITUTION AND RULES

### 1 NAME

The Society shall be called THE ARTS SOCIETY SEVERN VALLEY and shall be a Member Society of The Arts Society.

### 2. OBJECTS

As a Member Society of the The Arts Society, the Society shall have as the objects the promotion and advancement of the aesthetic education of the public, the cultivation, appreciation and study of the decorative and fine arts, and the giving of aid to the preservation of our national artistic heritage for the benefit of the public.

- (a) To arrange lectures for Members of the Society.
- (b) To arrange days of special interest, tours and visits to private houses, museums, exhibitions and other places of interest for Members of the Society.
- (c) To arrange voluntary preservation and recording work by its members in relation to the decorative and fine arts.
- (d) To encourage and nurture in children and young people a lasting enthusiasm for the Arts by means of art related activities funded wholly or partially by the Society.
- (e) To purchase, take on lease, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property or to hire premises including halls or lecture rooms and any rights, privileges or interests which the Society may think necessary for the promotion of their objects.
- (f) To raise and utilise funds for the furtherance of the objectives but without the power to pledge the personal liability of any Member for the repayment of any sums borrowed.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Membership shall be open to any person who applies in writing to the Membership Secretary.
- (b) Membership of either morning or afternoon sessions shall be limited to such number, as the Committee shall at any time decide.
- (c) Should the number of applicants exceed the decided figure, a waiting list shall be kept.
- (d) Persons on the waiting list are invited to attend no more than such number of meetings as shall be decided by the Committee after prior booking with the person nominated by the Committee to be responsible for guest bookings.
- (e) The Committee may elect Honorary Members who are distinguished in the decorative and fine arts or who have done valuable work for the Society. An Honorary Member may attend all meetings and events in the same manner as an Ordinary Member but shall not be liable to pay a subscription nor be entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Society. An Honorary Member who at the time of election as such was an Ordinary Member may elect to remain an Ordinary Member as well and in the event shall be liable to pay a subscription and vote at the General Meetings of the Society.
- (f) In no circumstances are Membership Cards/Programmes transferable.

(g) If, in the opinion of the Committee, the conduct or action of any member is injurious to the interests of the Society, the Committee may terminate such membership.

(h) The Society cannot accept responsibility for the safety of members' and personal property brought to meetings.

#### 4. VISITORS

Members may bring visitors to any meeting, except the Annual General Meeting, after booking with the person nominated by the Committee to be responsible for guest bookings and on payment of a fee. No visitor may attend more than such number of meetings as shall be decided by the Committee.

#### 5. COMMITTEE

(a) The Committee shall manage the affairs of the Society.

(b) The Committee shall consist of the Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and not more than twelve Members of the Society who shall be members of the Committee.

(c) The members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Society at an Annual General Meeting.

(d) The Officers shall be appointed from among the members of the Committee by a simple majority of the members of the Committee and may be removed from office by a simple majority of the members of the Committee.

(e) The normal period of service of the members of the Committee shall be five years but shall be eligible for re-election for a further period of five years.

(f) The Officers shall ordinarily hold office for a term of three years but shall be eligible to serve for a further period of up to two years.

(g) The Chairman, or his Deputy, shall preside at all General Meetings and Committee meetings of the Society. The decision of the Chairman of the General Meeting upon any question of order, voting, adjournment of the Meeting or interpretation of the rules of the Society shall be final. The Chairman of any Meeting shall have an additional casting vote in the event of equality of votes on any matter under consideration by the Society. The Chairman shall attend and represent the Society at all General Meetings of The Arts Society, Area and National Meetings or appoint a deputy to attend.

(h) The Committee shall have the power to appoint a President and Vice Presidents in recognition of their services to the Society from amongst members of the Society. The appointment of President shall be made by the Committee from amongst the Vice Presidents and will be honorary.

(i) The Committee shall meet at least SIX times a year and on such other occasions as circumstances shall require.

(j) A quorum shall consist of one more than half the total membership of the Committee, including at least two of the Officers.

(k) The Committee shall be empowered to fill any vacancy occasioned by death, resignation or inability to serve, and may in addition co-opt up to three further members from members of the Society. Any Officer or member co-opted shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting.

(l) The Committee members shall be entitled to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in the course of their duties for the Society.

(m) The Committee may appoint subcommittees accountable to it for such purposes as it determines.

(n) The Committee may make rules regulating the conduct of Meetings (other than General Meetings), attendance of visitors, charges for visitors and otherwise for the regulation of the Society's affairs.

## 6. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### (a) Procedure:

The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Committee and shall normally take place online by means of e-mail bulletins and online voting.

The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be:

- (i) To receive the Chairman's report;
- (ii) To receive the Treasurer's report and approve the examined accounts of the Society;
- (iii) To appoint an Independent Examiner of Accounts;
- (iv) To elect any members of the Committee of the Society as required;
- (v) To consider any resolutions duly proposed and seconded;
- (vi) Any other business with permission of the Chairman.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, together with a request for nominations to the Committee and any resolutions to be put to the Annual General Meeting, shall be circulated at least 28 days before the voting takes place.

### (b) Election of the Committee:

Written nominations for members of the Committee, signed by the proposer, the seconder and the nominee, shall be delivered to the Secretary at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting and references to duly proposed candidates are to those proposed following that procedure.

### (c) Resolutions

(i) Members wishing to put forward any resolutions shall give notice in writing, signed by the proposer and seconder, 21 days prior to the Annual General Meeting. Such resolutions as shall have been properly proposed and seconded shall then be set out in the Agenda together with the names of the proposer and seconder.

(ii) Resolutions require a simple majority of those voting, except those to wind up the affairs of the Society or involving any deletion, addition or change in these rules, which shall require a majority of two-thirds of those present.

### (d) Communications:

Notice of the Annual General Meeting, together with a request for nominations to the Committee and any resolutions to be put to the Annual General Meeting, shall be circulated at least 28 days before the meeting.

## 7. FINANCE AND SUBSCRIPTION

- (a) The Society's financial year shall end on April 30th in every year.
- (b) The Society shall maintain a bank account with a bank, as selected by the Committee, which is authorised to transact business in the United Kingdom.
- (c) Cheques shall always be signed by no fewer than two of the signatories agreed by the Committee provided that one of the two signatories, whenever possible, is either the Treasurer or Chairman. For any online banking, the Committee shall lay down rules for payments. In addition to the Treasurer, at least one other member of the Committee shall have online access to the bank account.
- (d) An independent Financial Examiner shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting, whose duties shall be to examine and report on the annual Accounts for the preceding financial year of the Society for submission to the Members.
- (e) The subscription to the Society shall be such annual amount, as the Committee shall from time to time decide.
- (f) The subscription for the forthcoming season shall be payable before such date as the Committee may from time to time decide and, if not paid by the due date, the Member shall cease to be entitled to rights and privileges of membership. The due date will be stated on the Application/Renewal form.
- (g) The Society will pay the The Arts Society affiliation fee for the calendar year no later than one month after such subscription is requested by The Arts Society.
- (h) Payments for outings, days of special interest or other events will be due at the time of booking and will normally be refundable if the ticket is resold.

## 8. MEMBERS ADDRESSES AND THE DATA PROTECTION ACT

- (a) Members shall notify any change of address to the Society.
- (b) Members details will be sent to The Arts Society and NADFAS Enterprises Ltd and will be used only in connection with The Arts Society activities.
- (c) Members' details will be held securely and used solely for the activities of The Arts Society Severn Valley.

## 9. WINDING UP OF THE SOCIETY

If a Resolution to wind up the affairs of the Society shall have been duly proposed and carried at a General Meeting (at which a representative of The Arts Society Trustee Board is present) by at least two-thirds of those present so much of the assets shall be realised as may be necessary to discharge liabilities of the Society and all the remaining assets shall be made over to such one or more charitable institutions or associations having charitable status with objects similar to those of the Society as the Committee shall decide.

## 10. WITHDRAWAL FROM THE ARTS SOCIETY

(a) A representative of the The Arts Society Trustee Board should be invited to a General Meeting at which withdrawal from The Arts Society is to be proposed.

(b) According to the Memorandum and Articles of Association of The Arts Society, six months' previous written Notice must be given to The Arts Society before a member Society withdraws from The Arts Society.

(c) On withdrawal or termination of Membership by The Arts Society, the Society shall cease to be entitled to use The Arts Society name and cease to be called "The Arts Society Severn Valley". (c) On withdrawal or termination of Membership by The Arts Society, the Society shall cease to be entitled to use The Arts Society name and cease to be called "The Arts Society Severn Valley". The Society shall return to The Arts Society all confidential documentation issued by The Arts Society.

## 11. INTERPRETATION

In these rules, where the context admits, the masculine shall include the feminine and the singular shall include the plural and vice versa. The decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation of these rules shall be final and binding on all Members and guests of the Society, subject to the provisions of Rule 5 (d) as to the General Meeting.

August 2024