

# Constitution of the Hull Natural History Society

## **1.00 OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIETY.**

The objective of the Hull Natural History Society is to study and record natural history, especially of a local nature.

## **2.00 CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP.**

- 2.01 The Society shall consist of four classes of membership, Honorary Life, Ordinary, Student and Family.
- 2.02 Honorary Life membership is awarded to persons who, in the opinion of the Officers, have rendered outstanding service to the Society. The person need not already be a member. At no time shall there be more than four Honorary Life members.
- 2.03 Members under 18 or in full time education are entitled to Student membership.
- 2.04 Where two or more members reside at the same address they are entitled to Family membership.

## **3.00 OFFICERS.**

- 3.01 The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, all being honorary.
- 3.02 The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by the Officers.
- 3.03 Officers shall be elected by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting. The period of office is one year. The current officers shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
- 3.04 Apart from the office of President, there is no restriction on the number of times a member may be re-elected to the same office.
- 3.05 In the case of the President, a member may be re-elected for a maximum of three consecutive years. In exceptional circumstances, an extension may be made of one year. A minimum period of one year must elapse before re-nomination.
- 3.06 The Officers shall have power to appoint committees from any members of the Society to assist in the discharge of their duties. Such committees will be directly responsible to the Officers.

## **4.00 MEETINGS.**

- 4.01 Ordinary Meetings shall be as set out in the Programme of Meetings.
- 4.02 The Annual General Meeting shall take place during March.
- 4.03 Extraordinary General Meetings may be called at the request of at least two of the Officers or after a written request signed by at least five members specifying the intended business has been handed to the President. Members shall be informed of the date and agenda of the Extraordinary General Meeting at least seven days in advance.
- 4.04 All members are entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting, or an Extraordinary General Meeting. Motions will be carried if supported by a majority of the members present at the meeting with the President having the casting-vote. Five members shall form a quorum.
- 4.05 Annual General and Extraordinary General meetings shall be minuted by the Secretary.
- 4.06 Meetings shall be chaired by the President.

## **5.00 FINANCE.**

- 5.01 The funds and assets of the Society shall be managed as the Officers direct.
- 5.02 Any funds kept in a bank shall be in an account held in the name of the Society. Bank withdrawals shall be made only under the signature of the Treasurer and one other Officer.
- 5.03 The Society shall not make any gift or bonus in money, or bank interest, to any of its members.
- 5.04 The Society's financial year shall be from 1st January.
- 5.05 The Treasurer shall present a statement of accounts at the Annual General Meeting.
- 5.06 The accounts should be verified by a competent person appointed at the previous AGM.
- 5.06 In the event of winding-up the Society, any funds will be returned to the donor, where possible. Any remaining funds will be donated to a group sharing similar objectives, following approval by the members.

## **6.00 SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

- 6.01 The annual subscription for membership of the Society is due on the 1st January each year.
- 6.02 The subscription for each class of membership shall be reviewed and agreed at the AGM. Honorary Members do not pay a subscription. The subscription for Family membership covers all members.
- 6.03 The subscription of a member joining after 30th June will not be due until 1st January of the next year.
- 6.04 Membership shall be considered to have lapsed when the subscription is more than twelve months in arrears.

## **7.00 MEMBERSHIP.**

- 7.01 Applications for membership shall be made through the Secretary using the Society's Membership Form.
- 7.02 The applicant will not become a member until the Membership Form has been countersigned by two established members.
- 7.03 The Society shall process personal data in accordance with any relevant legislation in force.

## **8.00 CONDUCT.**

- 8.01 Members shall not conduct themselves in such a manner as to bring discredit on the Society. The Officers shall consider appropriate action in cases of non-compliance.
- 8.02 All those attending field meetings do so at their own risk. Guidance in the form of a Safety Notice will be made available to all members.
- 8.03 Members under 16 years of age attending meetings must be under the supervision of an adult.

## **9.00 MEMBERS' PRIVILEGES.**

- 9.01 All members are entitled to receive a free copy of Bulletins and supplements. Family members receive one shared copy.
- 9.02 All members are entitled to attend field meetings and the Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Naturalists Union. They are not entitled to attend Section Meetings of the Union except by invitation and are not entitled to vote.
- 9.03 Members may on occasions introduce guests to meetings of the Society. Guests are not entitled to vote.

## **10.00 AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.**

- 10.01 The constitution may be changed at the Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society.
- 10.02 In the event of any such amendment, a copy of the revised constitution shall be available from the Society's website within three calendar months.

Constitution adopted at the Annual General Meeting, March 2020.