



The Deal Society

Constitution

1 Name

The name of the Society is 'The Deal Society'.

2 Objectives

The objectives of the Society are, in Deal, Walmer and the surrounding districts:

- a) To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning.
- b) To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the area.
- c) To encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.

3 Powers

In order to carry out the objectives, the Society has the power to:

- a) Raise funds, receive grants, fees and donations.
- b) Apply funds to carry out its work.
- c) Co-operate with and support other organisations.
- d) Do anything which is lawful and necessary to achieve the objectives, including:
 - i) Publicising the work of the Society and related activities
 - ii) Promoting meetings, exhibitions, lectures and other events
 - iii) Organising social events for members

4 Membership

- a) Membership is open to anyone who is interested in actively furthering the objectives of the Society and has paid any fee due.
- b) Membership fees will be set at a meeting of the members.
- c) Membership fees are due on the 1st January each year and Members joining after the end of September will include the following year.
- d) The Officers may grant complimentary membership to representatives of related organisations.
- e) The Officers may withdraw membership if a Member brings the Society into disrepute or acts in contravention of its objectives.

5 Officers

- a) The Society will be managed by a Committee of Officers, who must each be a Member.
- b) There may be a maximum of 12 Officers who are elected at the Annual Meeting.
- c) All Officers may, subject to being re-elected at each Annual Meeting, serve without time limit.
- d) The Committee may appoint additional Officers up to the maximum number allowed.
- e) Officers will act by a majority vote at a meeting, the quorum for which will be five.
- f) The Officers must meet at least six times per year, at least 14 days notice must be given to all Officers and minutes of meetings must be made.
- g) The Committee will appoint a Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and other named roles as required.
- h) If any Officer has a conflict of interest they must declare it and leave the meeting while the matter is being discussed or decided.
- i) The Officers may constitute such sub-committees, groups and teams as may be necessary. Their purpose and way of working will be clearly defined, at least one Officer must serve on each one and report to meetings of the Officers.
- j) A Patron or other honorary title may be conferred at an Annual Meeting.
- k) A President will be appointed at an Annual Meeting, without limit to their term.
- l) One or more Vice-President may be appointed at an Annual Meeting, each with a term of five years which is renewable.
- m) The President and Vice-Presidents must be Members of the Society, they may attend meetings of the Officers but may not vote at such meetings.

6 Meetings of the Members

- a) An Annual Meeting will be held each year at which a report on activities and finances will be made, and the Officers elected.
- b) Additional meetings may be called by the Committee or on request of 20 Members.
- c) At least 14 days notice of a meeting must be given to all Members.
- d) The quorum for a meeting is 20 members.
- e) The President (or in their absence a Vice-President) will chair the meeting.
- f) Minutes of meetings must be made.
- g) Nominations of Officers, and Resolutions to be put to the meeting, must be proposed by a Member of the Society and seconded by another Member.
- h) Members may vote on motions at a meeting by post or by electronic means, and such voters will be counted as having attended the meeting.
- i) Meetings may be held in person or by such means as enables Members to participate.
- j) Communications to Members may be made by post or by electronic means.

7 Finance and Accounts

- a) Income and property of the Society may only be used to carry out its objectives.
- b) The financial year will be from 1 January to 31 December.
- c) All funds must be held securely in the name of the Society.
- d) The Committee must approve any change to the signatories of any account.
- e) Any payment or withdrawal from an account must be approved by the Treasurer and one other signatory.
- f) Officers cannot receive any money or property from the Society, except to refund agreed expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.
- g) The Treasurer must keep proper financial records and report the financial position to each meeting of the Committee.
- h) The annual financial report must be subject to independent financial review.

8 Amendments

- a) This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of a meeting of the members.
- b) No amendment may be approved that commits the Society to any action not within its objectives.

9 Dissolution

- a) The Society may be dissolved with a two-thirds majority of a meeting of the members.
- b) Any residual funds of the Society will be transferred to one or more organisations having objectives similar to the Society.
- c) Minute books and other records of the Society will be placed with such a person or organisation for safe keeping as the meeting decides.