

# THE CHARD AND DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY

Registered charity no 270186

## CONSTITUTION

### 1. TITLE

The name of the Society shall be “Chard and District Museum Society.”

### 2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Society shall be:

- (a) the advancement of education, learning and knowledge by the provision and maintenance of a Public Museum in Godworthy House in the town of Chard or such other building or buildings as may from time to time be acquired by the Society
- (b) The exhibition in such building of artefacts, pictures, maps, letters, documents and other items of historical, geographical or geological interest relating to the history, geography and geology of Chard and its surrounding district.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

Any person having paid the current subscription, as determined by the Trustees, of the Friends of the Museum shall be deemed to be a member of the Museum Society and eligible to vote at a general meeting; married couple or family subscriptions shall bestow membership on all members of the family unit, those under eighteen years of age not having any power to vote.

### 4. HOLDING TRUSTEES

The holding trustees are the named individual trustees who hold the Museum’s property and who are elected by the Committee.

### 5. THE MUSEUM COMMITTEE

The Museum Committee is the governing body responsible for the day to day running of the Museum, the members of which are the Trustees. It will consist of not more than ten members elected at the annual general meeting (see rule 9c). The Committee may fill any vacancy by co-option. Chard Town Council, South Somerset District Council and Somerset County Council (or their successor councils) may be represented on the Committee by non-voting officers or councillors.

### 6. OFFICERS

The officers of the Museum Committee shall be: (a) chairperson (b) vice-chairperson (c) treasurer (d) minutes secretary and such other officers as the Committee may decide. These officers shall be elected annually by members at the annual general meeting and vacancies may be filled by the Committee.

### 7. MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet following the annual general meeting and at least quarterly. The quorum of the Committee shall be one third of its current membership and resolutions shall be passed by a simple majority with the chairperson having a casting vote. Minutes shall be kept of all meetings. The Committee may appoint sub-committees to implement its decisions and to work on its behalf. Sub-committees may co-opt additional members who shall not be trustees. Sub-committees and the membership thereof shall be re-confirmed at the Committee meeting following the annual general meeting. The Committee chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all sub-committees.

## 8. PRESIDENT

The Museum Committee may recommend to the annual general meeting the appointment of a President of the Society to hold office for a term of five years which term may be renewed with the approval of the annual general meeting.

## 9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The annual general meeting shall be held in March each year, not less than fourteen days public notice having been given, with a quorum of at least twelve members. Every member, including the chairperson, shall have one vote. In the case of equality of votes the chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

The meeting shall be held for the following purposes:

- (a) to receive the report of the chairperson
- (b) to receive and adopt the audited or independently examined accounts
- (c) to elect the Officers and Committee, nominations for election may be made at the meeting
- (d) special resolutions which may be presented and voted upon if seconded by six members and if fourteen days notice of them has been given; such resolutions shall require a two thirds majority of those attending.
- (e) Any other business.

## 10. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

A special general meeting of the Society must be summoned if a request has been made by not less than twelve members of the Society.

## 11. FINANCE

All sums collected shall be handed over to the treasurer who shall put the same into the authorised bank account. The Museum Committee may make such decisions as are appropriate for the proper management of the Society's funds. Cheques shall be signed by two members of the Museum Committee.

## 12. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

The rules of the Society form the second schedule of the Declaration of Trust. The Rules, other than rule 2 and this rule, may be altered repealed or added to by a resolution passed by a three-fourths majority of the members of the Society who are present in person or by proxy at a special meeting convened for that purpose and of which notice has been served upon every then member of the Society at his last known address in the United Kingdom.

March 2010.

## The Constitution

The original Constitution has been amended several times over the 40 years of the Society to update certain aspects. By the original Trust Deed articles 2 and 12 are unchangeable.