

The Purbeck Society

Constitution/Rules: As adopted at the AGM on 13th April 2007 and amended at the AGM on 10th April 2015.

1. Objects: The Purbeck Society is a local civic society for the study of matters of local interest and fields of history, local industries, architecture and all aspects of the heritage of the Isle of Purbeck and supports other such appropriate organisations concerned with the preservation of this heritage.

The Society is affiliated to the Dorset Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE). As such, it seeks to forward the aims of CPRE-that is to broadly to preserve the countryside as it develops, from abuse and disfigurement or any injuries to its amenities and, with this in view, to seek the cooperation of local authorities, landowners and others concerned.

2. Membership: Membership is open to anyone interested in the objects of the Society, subject to the approval of the Committee. The Committee shall have the power to elect as a President or Vice Presidents, persons who have rendered outstanding service to the Society. The Committee shall also have the power to elect Honorary Members of the Society any persons who have rendered special service to the Society or who are distinguished in any sphere of direct interest to the Society. The President or Vice Presidents, if any are appointed, shall be ex-officio members of the committee and will hold office for life, unless the Committee deems otherwise at the time of appointment. The Committee shall review each year the continuance or otherwise of the Honorary Memberships.

3. Election of Officers: The Officers of the Society shall be elected by members at the Annual General Meeting and shall consist of Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary and any other such Officers as are, from time to time deemed necessary. The functions of organising the Society activities will be divided between the Officers and Committee as deemed appropriate by them.

4. Committee: The Society shall be governed by a Committee of not more than ten (previously 14) members including the officers, to be elected annually at the AGM. Four (previously 5) members shall form a quorum. The Committee shall have power to co-opt additional members to the committee, in excess of the number of ten (previously 14) in exceptional circumstances, or to fill vacancies which may exist, as they may consider necessary for the satisfactory running of the Society. Such co-opted members shall serve on the Committee until the next AGM. Officers and Committee members shall stand down at the end of their elected term, serving to the conclusion of the AGM but may offer themselves for re-election.

The Committee shall meet as often as necessary and not less than four times per year. The Secretary shall give all Committee members not less than seven days notice of the date, time and place of the meeting and the business that will be discussed.

5. Subscriptions/Membership: Annual subscriptions are payable by 1st January and may be increased from time to time as found to be necessary. All increases must be put to Society members thirty days prior to the Annual or Special General Meeting, voted on and, if agreed, incorporated at the Annual or Special General Meeting. Any person not having renewed by the 1st April of that year will be deemed to have lapsed from membership.

6. Annual General Meetings: The Annual General Meeting of the Society, at which the Officers and members of the Committee are elected, shall be held each Spring, at a date decided by the Committee. A statement of accounts for the past year shall be presented by the Treasurer for approval at the AGM. A copy of the accounts shall be sent to the members of the Society with the Agenda at least seven days before that meeting. All motions to be decided shall be proposed, seconded and voted on by show of hands, excepting only where nominations for Officers or Committee posts are contested when voting shall be by secret ballot. Only paid-up members present at the meeting shall be entitled to vote, each member having one vote. In the case of equality of votes, the Chairman shall have a casting vote. The quorum at the General Meetings shall be 10% of the paid-up members of the Society or twenty, whichever is the greater.

This document has been typed in digital form on 23.2.19 by Collette Drayson (Secretary) on 23rd February, 2019.