

## THE FORDINGBRIDGE SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

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1. NAME: The name of the Society shall be The Fordingbridge Society.

2. OBJECTS: The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising the civil parishes of Fordingbridge, Hyde, and Sandleheath: which area shall hereinafter be referred to as “the area of benefit”:

1. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in or affecting the area of benefit.
2. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history, and architecture of the area.
3. To secure the preservation, protection, development, and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area of benefit.

In furtherance of the said purposes, but not otherwise, the Society through its Executive Committee, shall have the following powers:-

1. To promote civic pride in the area of benefit.
2. To promote research into subjects directly connected with the objects of the Society, and to publish the results of any such work.
3. To act as a coordinating body and to cooperate with the local authorities, planning committees, and all other statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, charities, and persons having aims similar to those of the Society.
4. To promote or assist in promoting activities of a charitable nature throughout the area.
5. To publish papers, reports, and other literature.
6. To make surveys, prepare maps and plans, and collect information in relation to any place, erection, or building of beauty or historic interest within the area of benefit.
7. To hold meetings, lectures, and exhibitions.
8. To educate public opinion and to give advice and information.
9. To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscriptions, donations, and otherwise; provided that the Society shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary purpose.
10. To acquire by purchase, gift, or otherwise, property whether subject to any special trust or not.
11. To sell, let, mortgage, dispose of, or turn to account, all or any of the property or funds of the Society as shall be necessary.
12. To borrow or raise money for the purposes of the Society on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Society shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions.
13. To do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the said purposes.

3. MEMBERSHIP: Shall be open to all who are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society. No member shall have power to vote at any meeting of the Society if their subscription is in arrears at the time. Junior members shall be those less than 18 years at the time their subscription is due; and they shall not be entitled to vote at any meeting of the Society. Corporate members shall be such societies, associations, educational institutions, or businesses as are interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Society. A corporate member shall appoint a representative to vote on its behalf at all meetings, but particulars of such representative shall be given to the Hon. Secretary in writing before the meeting. The subscription of a member joining the Society in the 3 months preceding the 1<sup>st</sup> January in any year shall be regarded as covering membership for the following year.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS: These shall be as follows:

Individual life members . . . . .	£50
Individual members per annum. . . . .	£ 4
Family members (all living at same address). . . . .	£ 6
Junior members per annum. . . . .	£ 1
Corporate members per annum . . . . .	£ 7.50

Or such other reasonable sum as the Executive Committee shall determine from time to time. Annual Subscriptions shall become payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid 3 months after it is due.

5. MEETINGS: An annual general meeting shall be held in or about the month of September to receive the Report of the Executive Committee, the audited accounts, and to elect Officers and Members of the Committee. Ordinary meetings of the Society shall be held as arranged by the Committee.

Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of fifteen or more members. Twenty (20) members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a Meeting of the Society. At least seven days notice shall be given to members of all General Meetings of the Society.

6. OFFICERS: Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Hon. Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconder and with the consent of the nominee. The election of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Committee members. Nominees for election as Officers or Committee Members shall declare at the Annual General Meeting any financial or professional interest likely to be of concern to the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of:-

Chairman  
Honorary Secretary  
Honorary Treasurer

all of whom shall relinquish their Office every year and shall be eligible for re-election.

A President may also be elected at an Annual General Meeting for periods to be decided at such a meeting. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill casual vacancies occurring among the Officers of the Society.

The Society at its Annual General Meeting shall appoint an Honorary Auditor for the following year.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. It shall consist of the Officers and not less than one other member. The Committee shall have power to co-opt further members - who shall attend in an advisory and non-voting capacity. The Officers and members of the Committee shall normally be resident or work in the area of benefit, but the Committee shall have power to co-opt members from outside the area. The President may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. In the event of an equal vote the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing, with a seconder and consent of the nominee, to the Hon. Secretary at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually and any outgoing members may be re-elected. The Executive Committee shall meet not less than six times a year at intervals of not more than two months. The quorum shall be 3 members of the Executive. The Executive Committee shall have power to fill up to 3 casual vacancies which may occur.

8. SUB-COMMITTEES: The Executive Committee may constitute such sub-committees from time to time as shall be considered necessary. The chairman and secretary of each sub-committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and all actions and proceedings of each sub-committee shall be reported to and confirmed by the Executive Committee as soon as possible. Members of the Executive Committee may be members of any sub-committee and membership of a sub-committee shall be no bar to appointment to membership of the Executive Committee. Sub-committees shall be regulated or dissolved by the Executive Committee.

9. DECLARATION OF INTEREST: It shall be the duty of every Officer or Member of the Executive Committee or sub-committee, who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any meeting at which he/she is present, to declare such interest. Except by invitation of the Chairman, he/she shall not discuss or vote on such item.

10. EXPENSES of ADMINISTRATION: The Executive Committee shall, out of the funds of the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society. After these expenses and the setting aside to reserve such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds shall be applied by the Executive Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the Society.

11. INVESTMENT: All monies at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application shall be invested in such investments, securities, or property as considered fit, subject to such authority, approval or consent by the Charity Commissioners as may, for the time being, be required by law or by the special trusts affecting any property in the hands of the Executive Committee.

12. TRUSTEES: Any freehold and leasehold property acquired by the Society, and if the Executive Committee directs any other property belonging to the Society, may be vested in trustees who shall deal with such property as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct. Any trustees shall be at least three in number or a trust corporation. The power of appointment of new trustees shall be vested in the Executive Committee. A trustee need not be a member of the Society, but no person whose membership lapses by virtue of clause 4 hereof shall thereafter be qualified to act as a trustee unless and until re-appointment as such by the Executive Committee. The Hon. Secretary shall from 06/11/2013 time to time notify the trustees in writing of any amendment hereto and the trustees shall not be bound by any such amendments in their duties as trustees unless such notice has been given. The Society shall be bound to indemnify the trustees in their duties (including the proper charge of a trustee being a trust corporation) and liability under such indemnity shall be a proper administrative expense.

13. AMENDMENTS: This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of members present at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society, provided that 28 days notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members, and provided that nothing herein contained shall authorise any amendment, the effect of which would be to cause the Society at any time to cease to be a charity in law.

14. NOTICES: Any notice required to be given by these rules shall be duly given if sent by email, sent by prepaid post, left at, or otherwise delivered to, the email address or correspondence address of that member last notified to the Hon Secretary.

15. WINDING UP: The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society confirmed by a simple majority of members voting at a further Special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous Meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Society is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given. In the event of the dissolution of the Society, the available funds of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar or reasonably similar to those herein before declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Society at which the decision to dissolve the Society is confirmed. On dissolution the minute books and other records of the Society shall be deposited with the Civic Trust.