

**SENIORNET WELLINGTON INCORPORATED SOCIETY REGISTERED AS A CHARITY  
CONSTITUTION**

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## 1. NAME

1.1 The name of the Society is SeniorNet Wellington Incorporated (in this Constitution referred to as the 'Society').

1.2 The Society is already registered as a charitable entity under the Charities Act 2005.

## 2. DEFINITIONS

In this Constitution, unless the context requires otherwise, the following words and phrases have the following meanings:

'**Act**' means the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 or any Act which replaces it (including amendments to it from time to time), and any regulations made under the Act or under any Act which replaces it.

'**Acting Chairperson**' means the Officer appointed by the Chairperson to act on their behalf during the Chairperson's absence.

'**Annual General Meeting**' means a meeting of the **Members** of the **Society** held once per year which, among other things, will receive and consider reports on the **Society's** activities and finances.

'**Associate member**' means a **Member** as defined under clause 7.2(iii) of this Constitution.

'**Chairperson**' means the **Officer** responsible for chairing **General Meetings** and committee meetings, and who provides leadership for the **Society**.

'**Committee**' means the **Society's** governing body.

'**Complaint**' means a Complaint as defined in clause 38.2 of the **Act**.

'**Constitution**' means the rules in this document.

'**Dispute**' means a Dispute as defined in clause 38.1 of the **Act**.

'**Financial member**' means a **Member** who has paid their annual subscription to the **Society**.

'**General Meeting**' means either an **Annual General Meeting** or a **Special General Meeting** of the **Members** of the **Society**.

'**Interested Member**' means a **Member** who is interested in a matter for any of the reasons set out in section 62 of the **Act**, being where that member:

- (or the spouse, civil union partner, de facto partner, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, nephew, niece, uncle, aunt, or first cousin of that Member) may obtain a financial benefit from the Matter;
- may have a financial interest in a person to whom the Matter relates; or
- is a partner, director, Officer, Committee Member, or trustee of a person who may have a financial interest in a person to whom the Matter relates; or
- is interested in the Matter for any other reason specified in this Constitution,

provided that a Member will not be deemed to be interested in a Matter where:

- the Member receives an indemnity, insurance cover, remuneration, or other benefits authorised under the Act;
- the Member's interest is the same or substantially the same as the benefit or interest of all or most other Members of the Society due to the membership of those Members; or
- if the Member's interest is so remote or insignificant that it cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to influence the Member in carrying out their responsibilities under the Act or this constitution.

**'Interests Register'** means the register of interests of **Officers**, kept under this **Constitution** and as required by section 73 of the **Act**.

**'Life member'** means a **Member** as defined under clause 7.2(ii) of this Constitution.

**'Matter'** means:

- the **Society's** performance of its activities or exercise of its powers; or
- an arrangement, agreement, or contract (a transaction) made or entered into, or proposed to be entered into, by the **Society**.

**'Member'** means a person who has consented to become a **Member** of the **Society** and has been properly admitted to the **Society** who has not ceased to be a **Member** of the **Society**.

**'Notice'** to **Members** includes any notice given by email, post, or courier.

**'Officer'** means a natural person who is a member of the **Committee**, or occupying a position in the Society that allows them to exercise significant influence over the management or administration of the Society.

**'Register of Members'** means the register of **Members** kept under this **Constitution** as required by section 79 of the **Act**.

**'Secretary'** means the **Officer** responsible for the matters specifically noted in this **Constitution**.

**'Special General Meeting'** means a meeting of the **Members**, other than an **Annual General Meeting**, called for a specific purpose or purposes.

**'Working Days'** mean as defined in the Legislation Act 2019. Examples of days that are not **Working Days** include, but are not limited to, the following — a Saturday, a Sunday, Waitangi Day, Good Friday, Easter Monday, ANZAC Day, the Sovereign's birthday, TeRāAroki a Matariki/Matariki Observance Day, and Labour Day.

### 3. PURPOSES

3.1 The Society is established and maintained exclusively for charitable purposes in New Zealand (including any purposes ancillary to those charitable purposes), namely:

- (i) to teach technology and computer skills to older adults in a friendly way.
- (ii) to give older adults the opportunity to learn skills that will enable them to continue their contribution to Society, thus enabling them to participate in the age in which we live and hence encourage lifetime learning.

- (iii) to offer a means for older adults to communicate with family, friends and others in the community and also make new friends, through interactive telecommunications, and thus improve social cohesion.
- (iv) to continue to fill an already clearly identified community learning need.
- (v) to do all such things as may be deemed necessary to attain and complement the above objectives.

3.2 Any income, benefit, or advantage must be used to advance the charitable purposes of the Society and not for the financial gain of any Member or Officer provided that:

- (i) an Officer may receive fees in accordance with Rule 25; and
- (ii) a Member or an Officer may receive reimbursement for reasonable expenses legitimately incurred on behalf of the Society while pursuing the Society's Purposes.

## **4. ACT AND REGULATIONS**

4.1 Nothing in this Constitution authorises the Society to do anything which contravenes or is inconsistent with the Act, any regulations made under the Act, or any other legislation.

## **5. REGISTERED OFFICE**

5.1 The registered office of the Society shall be at such place in New Zealand as the Committee from time to time determines.

5.2 Changes to the registered office shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies:

- at least 5 working days before the change of address for the registered office is due to take effect, and
- in a form and as required by the Act.

## **6. CONTACT PERSON**

6.1 The Society shall have at least 1 but no more than 3 contact person(s) whom the Registrar of Incorporated Societies can contact when needed. Ordinarily this will be the Chairperson and the Secretary.

6.2 The Society's contact person must be:

- at least 18 years of age, and
- ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

6.3 A contact person can be appointed by the Committee or elected by the Members at a General Meeting.

6.4 Each contact person's name must be provided to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies, along with their contact details, including:

- a physical address or an electronic address, and
- a telephone number.

6.5 Any change in that contact person or that person's name or contact details shall be advised to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies within 20 Working Days of that change occurring, or the Society becoming aware of the change.

## **7. MEMBERS**

7.1 The Society shall maintain the minimum number of Members required by the Act.

7.2 The classes of membership and the method by which Members are admitted to different classes of membership are as follows:

(i) Member

A Member is an individual admitted to membership under this Constitution and who has not ceased to be a Member. Most Members are Financial Members, having paid an annual membership fee.

(ii) Life Member

A Life Member is a person honoured for highly valued services to the Society elected as a Life Member by resolution of a General Meeting passed by a two-thirds majority of those Members present and voting. A Life Member shall have all the rights and privileges of a Financial Member and shall be subject to all the same duties as a Member except those of paying subscriptions and levies.

(iii) Associate Member

Associate Member means a person who is not a 'Financial Member' in terms of this Constitution who may be able to offer technical, educational, or administrative skills to SeniorNet Wellington but is not required to pay a membership fee. They are still bound by all operational safety requirements. No subsequent rights or privileges are conferred on an Associate Member.

7.3 Every applicant for membership must complete the application form – either the paper form or online form – and consent to becoming a Member either by signing the paper form or by ticking the applicable check-box on the online form.

7.4 The applicant will become a Member on acceptance of that application by the Committee.

7.5 The Committee may accept or decline an application for membership at its sole discretion. The Committee must advise the applicant of its decision.

7.6 The written consent of every Member to become a Society Member shall be retained in the Society's membership records.

7.7 Every Member shall provide the Society in writing with that Member's name and contact details (namely, physical or email address and a telephone number) and promptly advise the Society in writing of any changes to those details.

7.8 All Members shall promote the interests and purposes of the Society and shall do nothing to bring the Society into disrepute.

7.9 A Member is only entitled to exercise the rights of membership (including attending and voting at General Meetings, accessing or using the Society's premises, facilities, equipment

and other property, and participating in Society activities) if all subscriptions and any other fees have been paid to the Society by their respective due dates, but no Member, Associate Member or Life Member is liable for an obligation of the Society by reason only of being a Member.

7.10 The Committee may decide what access or use Members may have of or to any premises, facilities, equipment or other property owned, occupied or otherwise used by the Society, and to participate in Society activities, including any conditions of and fees for such access, use or involvement.

## **8. SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FEES**

8.1 The annual subscription and any other fees for membership for the following financial year shall be set by resolution of a General Meeting.

8.2. Any Member failing to pay the annual subscription, any levy, or any capitation fees, within 3 calendar months of the date the same was due for payment shall be considered as unfinancial and shall (without being released from the obligation of payment) have no membership rights until all the arrears are paid. If such arrears are not paid within 3 calendar months of the due date for payment of the subscription, any other fees, or levy the Committee may terminate the Member's membership (without being required to give prior notice to that Member).

## **9. CEASING TO BE A MEMBER**

9.1 A **Member** ceases to be a Member:

- (i) by resignation from that Member's class of membership by written or verbal notification to an office staff member, or
- (ii) on termination of a Member's membership following a Dispute resolution process under this Constitution, or
- (iii) on death, or
- (iv) by resolution of the Committee where:
  - a) The Member has failed to pay a subscription within three months of the due date for payment.
  - b) In the opinion of the Committee the Member has brought the Society into disrepute.

9.2 with effect from (as applicable)

- (i) the date of receipt of the Member's notice of resignation (or any subsequent date stated in the notice of resignation), or
- (ii) the date of termination of the Member's membership under this Constitution, or
- (iii) the date of death of the Member, or
- (iv) the date specified in a resolution of the Committee and when a Member's membership has been terminated the Committee shall promptly notify the former Member in writing.

## **10 OBLIGATIONS ONCE MEMBERSHIP HAS CEASED**

10.1 A Member who has ceased to be a Member under this Constitution:

- (i) shall cease to hold himself or herself out as a Member of the Society,
- (ii) shall return to the Society all equipment or other assets provided to Members by the Society, but excluding any training or presentation material provided at such events, and
- (iii) shall cease to be entitled to any of the rights of a Society Member.

## **11. BECOMING A MEMBER AGAIN**

11.1 Any former Member may apply for re-admission in the manner prescribed for new applicants.

11.2 But, if a former Member's membership was terminated following a disciplinary or Dispute resolution process, the applicant may be re-admitted only by a resolution of the Committee.

## **12. GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **12.1 Procedures for all general meetings**

- (i) The Committee shall give all Members at least 20 Working Days' written Notice of any General Meeting and of the business to be conducted at that General Meeting.
- (ii) That Notice will be addressed to the Member at the contact address notified to the Society and recorded in the Society's register of members. The General Meeting and its business will not be invalidated simply because one or more Members do not receive the Notice of the General Meeting.
- (iii) Only Financial Members and Life Members may attend, speak and vote at General Meetings. Associate members may attend and speak, if invited, but not vote.
- (iv) No General Meeting may be held unless at least 10 eligible Financial Members and/or Life Members attend throughout the meeting and this will constitute a quorum.
- (v) If, within half an hour after the time appointed for a meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened upon request of Members, shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall stand adjourned to a day, time and place determined by the Chairperson of the Society, and if at such adjourned meeting a quorum is not present those Members present in person shall be deemed to constitute a sufficient quorum.
- (vi) Unless as approved by the Committee from time to time, voting by proxy is not permitted at General Meetings.
- (vii) Unless otherwise required by this Constitution, all questions shall be decided by a simple majority of those in attendance in person voting at a General Meeting.
- (viii) Any decisions made when a quorum is not present are not valid.

12.2 The Society may pass a written resolution in lieu of a General Meeting, and a written resolution is as valid for the purposes of the Act and this Constitution as if it had been passed at a General Meeting if it is approved by no less than 75 percent of the eligible Financial Members voting on the resolution. A written resolution may consist of 1 or more documents in

similar form (including letters, electronic mail, or other similar means of communication) each proposed by or on behalf of 1 or more Members. A Member may give their approval to a written resolution by signing the resolution or giving approval to the resolution in any other manner permitted by the Constitution (for example, by electronic means).

12.3 General Meetings may be held at one or more venues by Members present in person and/or using any real-time audio, audio and visual, or electronic communication that gives each Member a reasonable opportunity to participate.

- (i) Unless as approved by the Committee from time to time, voting by proxy is not permitted in general meetings.

12.4 All General Meetings shall be chaired by the Chairperson. If the Chairperson is absent, they will appoint an Acting Chairperson to chair that meeting.

- (i) Any person chairing a General Meeting has a deliberative and, in the event of a tied vote, a casting vote. Any person chairing a General Meeting may:
  - a) With the consent of a simple majority of Members present at any General Meeting adjourn the General Meeting from time to time and from place to place but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned General Meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
  - b) Direct that any person not entitled to be present at the General Meeting, or obstructing the business of the General Meeting, or behaving in a disorderly manner, or being abusive, or failing to abide by the directions of the chairperson be removed from the General Meeting, and
  - c) In the absence of a quorum or in the case of emergency, adjourn the General Meeting or declare it closed.
- (ii) The Committee may propose motions for the Society to vote on ('Committee Motions'), which shall be notified to Members with the notice of the General Meeting.
- (iii) Any Member may request that a motion be voted on ('Member's Motion') at a General Meeting, by giving notice to the Secretary or Committee at least 15 Working Days before that meeting. The Member may also provide information in support of the motion ('Member's Information'). If notice of the motion is given to the Secretary or Committee before written Notice of the General Meeting is given to Members, notice of the motion shall be provided to Members with the written Notice of the General Meeting.

## **13. MINUTES**

13.1 The Society must keep minutes of all General Meetings. A Member may make written request for the minutes of the most recent general meeting of the Society.

## **14. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

14.1 An Annual General Meeting shall be held once a year on a date and at a location and/or using any electronic communication determined by the Committee and consistent with any requirements in the Act, and the Constitution relating to the procedure to be followed at General Meetings shall apply.

14.2 The written notice of the Annual General Meeting will call for nominations for Committee members to be received at least 10 Working Days prior to the Annual General Meeting.

14.3 The Annual General Meeting must be held within 6 months of the balance date of the Society and within 15 months of the previous AGM.

14.4 The business of an Annual General Meeting shall be to:

- (i) confirm the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and any Special General Meeting(s) held since the last Annual General Meeting,
- (ii) adopt the annual report on the operations and affairs of the Society,
- (iii) adopt the Committee's report on the finances of the Society, and the annual financial statements,
- (iv) set any subscriptions for the following financial year,
- (v) approve fees and/or honoraria to be paid to Officers, as set by the Committee from time to time,
- (vi) elect the Committee for the year,
- (vii) consider any motions of which prior notice has been given to Members with notice of the Meeting, and
- (viii) consider any general business.

14.5 The Committee must, at each Annual General Meeting, present the following information:

- (i) an annual report on the operation and affairs of the Society during the most recently completed accounting period,
- (ii) the annual financial statements for that period, and
- (iii) notice of any disclosures of conflicts of interest made by Officers during that period (including a summary of the matters, or types of matters, to which those disclosures relate).

## **15. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

15.1 Special General Meetings may be called at any time by the Committee by resolution.

15.2 The Committee must call a Special General Meeting if it receives a written request signed by at least 10 Members.

- (i) Any resolution or written request must state the business that the Special General Meeting is to deal with.
- (ii) The rules in this Constitution relating to the procedure to be followed at General Meetings shall apply to a Special General Meeting, and a Special General Meeting shall only consider and deal with the business specified in the Committee's resolution or the written request by Members for the Meeting.

## **16. COMMITTEE**

16.1 The Committee will consist of at least 3 Officers and no more than 10 Officers who are:

- (i) Life Members;
- (ii) Financial Members; or
- (iii) Associate Members, who have been appointed to specific positions by a majority vote of the existing Committee;
- (iv) none of whom have been disqualified by this Constitution, the Charities Act 2005 or the Act.

16.2 The Committee should include:

- (i) a Chairperson,
- (ii) a Secretary,
- (iii) a Treasurer, and
- (iv) up to 7 other Committee Members.

provided that more than half of the Committee at any time are current Financial or Life Members.

16.3 The Chairperson may, during periods of absence, nominate another member of the Committee to be Acting Chairperson. The Acting Chairperson will have all the powers of the Chairperson, except the ability to further nominate an Acting Chairperson.

The nomination must be recorded by the Committee and must include starting and ending dates.

## **17. FUNCTIONS**

17.1 From the end of each Annual General Meeting until the end of the next, the Society shall be managed by, or under the direction or supervision of, the Committee, in accordance with the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, any Regulations made under that Act, and this Constitution.

## **18. POWERS**

18.1 The Committee has all the powers necessary for managing and for directing and supervising the management of the operation and affairs of the Society, subject to such modifications, exceptions, or limitations as are contained in the Act or in this Constitution.

## **19. SUB-COMMITTEES**

19.1 The Committee may appoint sub-committees consisting of such persons (whether or not Members of the Society) and for such purposes as it thinks fit. Unless otherwise resolved by the Committee:

- (i) the quorum of every sub-committee is half the members of the sub-committee but not less than 2,
- (ii) no sub-committee shall have power to co-opt additional members,
- (iii) a sub-committee must not commit the Society to any financial expenditure without express authority from the Committee, and
- (iv) a sub-committee must not further delegate any of its powers.

## **20. GENERAL MATTERS**

20.1 The Committee and any sub-committee may act by resolution approved during a conference call using audio and/or audio-visual technology or through a written ballot conducted by email, electronic voting system, or post, and any such resolution shall be recorded in the minutes of the next Committee or sub-committee meeting.

20.2 Other than as prescribed by the Act or this Constitution, the Committee or any sub-committee may regulate its proceedings as it thinks fit.

## **21. COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

21.1 The quorum for Committee meetings is at least three members of the Committee, including at least the Chairperson, Acting Chairperson or the Treasurer.

21.2 A meeting of the Committee may be held:

- (i) by a number of the members of the Committee who constitute a quorum, being assembled together at the place, date and time appointed for the meeting; or
- (ii) by means of audio or video conferencing by which all members of the Committee participating and constituting a quorum can simultaneously hear each other and be heard by all others throughout the meeting.

21.3 A resolution of the Committee is passed at any meeting of the Committee if a majority of the votes cast on it are in favour of the resolution. Every Officer on the Committee shall have one vote. The chairperson has a casting vote in the event of a tied vote on any resolution of the Committee.

21.4 Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the Committee may regulate its own procedure.

21.5 The Committee shall meet at least two monthly (but need only meet once in the December-January period) at such times and places (including by audio or videoconferencing) as convened by the Chairperson or Acting Chairperson.

21.6 The Secretary, or other Committee member nominated by the Committee, shall give to all Committee members not less than 5 Working Days' notice of Committee meetings, but in cases of urgency a shorter period of notice shall suffice.

## **22. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFICERS**

22.1 Every Officer must be a natural person who:

- has consented in writing to be an officer of the Society, and
- certifies that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed or otherwise holding office as an Officer of the Society.

22.2 Officers must not be disqualified under section 47(3) of the Act or section 16 of the Charities Act 2005 from being appointed or holding office as an Officer of the Society, namely:

- a) a person who is under 16 years of age
- b) a person who is an undischarged bankrupt
- c) a person who is prohibited from being a director or promoter of, or being concerned or taking part in the management of, an incorporated or unincorporated body under the Companies Act 1993, the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013, or the Takeovers Act 1993, or any other similar legislation
- d) A person who is disqualified from being a member of the governing body of a charitable entity under section 16(2) of the Charities Act 2005
- e) a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years:

- i) an offence under subpart 6 of Part 4 of the **Act**
- ii) a crime involving dishonesty (within the meaning of section 2(1) of the Crimes Act 1961)
- iii) an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act 1994
- iv) an offence, in a country other than New Zealand, that is substantially similar to an offence specified in subparagraphs (i) to (iii)
- v) a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere
- f) a person subject to:
  - (i) a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4 of the Act, or
  - (ii) an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003, or
  - (iii) a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009, or
  - (iv) a property order made under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988, or whose property is managed by a trustee corporation under section 32 of that Act.
- g) a person who is subject to an order that is substantially similar to an order referred to in paragraph (f) under a law of a country, State, or territory outside New Zealand that is a country, State, or territory prescribed by the regulations (if any) of the Act.

22.3 Prior to election or appointment as an Officer a person must: consent in writing to be an Officer, and certify in writing that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed as an Officer either by this Constitution or the Act.

22.4 Note that only a natural person may be an Officer and each certificate shall be retained in the Society's records.

## **23. OFFICERS' DUTIES**

23.1 At all times each Officer:

- (i) shall act in good faith and in what he or she believes to be the best interests of the Society,
- (ii) must exercise all powers for a proper purpose,
- (iii) must not act, or agree to the Society acting, in a manner that contravenes the Act or this Constitution,
- (iv) when exercising powers or performing duties as an Officer, must exercise the care and diligence that a reasonable person with the same responsibilities would exercise in the same circumstances taking into account, but without limitation:
  - a) the nature of the Society,
  - b) the nature of the decision, and
  - c) the position of the Officer and the nature of the responsibilities undertaken by him or her
- (v) must not agree to the activities of the Society being carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the Society or to the Society's creditors, or cause or allow the activities of the Society to be carried on in a manner likely to create a substantial risk of serious loss to the Society or to the Society's creditors, and
- (vi) must not agree to the Society incurring an obligation unless he or she believes at that time on reasonable grounds that the Society will be able to perform the obligation when it is required to do so.

## **23.2 Duties of Chairperson**

- (i) The Chairperson will chair all meetings of the Committee and all general meetings, including the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) The Chairperson will sign, when properly authorised by the Committee, any contracts and obligations of the Society.
- (iii) The Chairperson will sign respective Minutes of meetings chaired.
- (iv) The Chairperson, with the help of the Treasurer, will prepare the Annual Report for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

## **23.3 Duties of Secretary**

The Secretary shall:

- (i) keep the minutes of all committee and general meetings and conduct correspondence as may be required by the Committee.
- (ii) maintain and keep all books, documents, records and correspondence of the Society
- (iii) advise the Registrar of Incorporated Societies in proper form of any alteration to the Constitution and once these are registered, upload these to Charities Services.
- (iv) update the Registrar of Incorporated Societies about changes to the registered office and contact person as required by legislation
- (v) ensure all reporting is submitted to Charities Services within the required timeframe.

## **23.4 Duties of Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall:

- (i) Receive all monies on behalf of the Society and as soon as reasonably possible lodge these into the Society's bank accounts
- (ii) Ensure receipts have been issued or other appropriate record made for any cash received
- (iii) Pay all accounts as approved by the Committee
- (iv) Ensure that only persons authorised by the Committee operate the bank accounts
- (v) Keep a true and accurate record of the Society's accounts so that the Society's financial position can be clearly understood at any point in time.
- (vi) Prepare an accurate statement of the Society's financial position and a list of creditors for payment for each Committee meeting
- (vii) Prepare for review a financial report and statement of accounts (including income and expenditure account and balance sheet) at each annual general meeting. These must meet the reporting requirements of Charities Services.

## **24. ELECTION OR APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

24.1 The election of Officers shall be conducted as follows.

- (i) officers shall be elected during Annual General Meetings. However, if a vacancy in the position of any Officer occurs between Annual General Meetings, that vacancy shall be filled by resolution of the Committee (and any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an Officer (as

described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above). Any such appointment must be ratified at the next Annual General Meeting.

- (ii) nominations will be called for in the written notice of the Annual General Meeting as outlined in clause 14.2
- (iii) each candidate, being a member of the Society, shall be proposed and seconded in writing on the prescribed nomination form by a member of the Society.
- (iv) each candidate's written nomination, accompanied by the written consent of the nominee with a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an Officer (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above) shall be received by the Society at least 10 Working Days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. If there are insufficient valid nominations received, further nominations may be received from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.
- (v) votes shall be cast by a show of hands at the Annual General Meeting. In the event of any vote being tied, the tie shall be resolved by the incoming Committee (excluding those in respect of whom the votes are tied).
- (vi) the failure for any reason of any Financial Member to receive such Notice of the general meeting shall not invalidate the election.
- (vii) in addition to Officers elected under the foregoing provisions of this rule, the Committee may appoint other Officers for a specific purpose, or for a limited period, or generally until the next Annual General Meeting. Unless otherwise specified by the Committee any person so appointed shall have full speaking and voting rights as an Officer of the Society. Any such appointee must, before appointment, supply a signed consent to appointment and a certificate that the nominee is not disqualified from being appointed or holding office as an Officer (as described in the 'Qualification of Officers' rule above).

24.2 The term of office for all Officers elected to the Committee shall be 1 year, expiring at the end of the Annual General Meeting.

24.3 No Officer shall serve for more than 5 consecutive terms in the same role.

24.4 No Chairperson shall serve for more than 3 consecutive years as Chairperson.

## **25. FEES AND HONORARIA**

25.1 The Society may pay fees and/or honoraria to Committee Members as set by the Committee from time to time and approved by the Society.

25.2 The Committee may pay and/or give an honorarium to an Associate Member for specific services provided to the Society as approved by the Committee

## **26. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS**

26.1 An Officer shall be removed as an Officer by resolution of the Committee or the Society where in the opinion of the Committee or the Society:

- the Officer elected to the Committee has been absent from 3 committee meetings without leave of absence from the Committee.
- the Officer has brought the Society into disrepute.
- the Officer has failed to disclose a conflict of interest.
- the Committee passes a vote of no confidence in the Officer

- the Officer is removed in accordance with the Dispute Resolution procedure in this Constitution  
with effect from (as applicable) the date specified in a resolution of the Committee or Society.

## **27. CEASING TO HOLD OFFICE**

27.1 An Officer ceases to hold office when they resign (by notice in writing to the Committee), are removed, die, are removed in accordance with the Disputes Resolution procedure in this constitution, or otherwise vacate office in accordance with section 50(1) of the Act.

27.2 Each Officer shall within 10 Working Days of submitting a resignation or ceasing to hold office, deliver to the Committee all books, papers and other property of the Society held by such former Officer.

## **28. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

28.1 An Officer or member of a sub-committee who is an Interested Member in respect of any Matter being considered by the Society, must disclose details of the nature and extent of the interest (including any monetary value of the interest if it can be quantified):

- (i) to the Committee and or sub-committee, and
- (ii) in an Interests Register kept by the Committee.

28.2 Disclosure must be made as soon as practicable after the Officer or member of a sub-committee becomes aware that they are interested in the Matter.

28.3 An Officer or member of a sub-committee who is an Interested Member regarding a Matter:

- (i) must not vote or take part in the decision of the Committee and/or sub-committee relating to the Matter unless all members of the Committee who are not interested in the Matter consent; and
- (ii) must not sign any document relating to the entry into a transaction or the initiation of the Matter unless all members of the Committee who are not interested in the Matter consent; but
- (iii) may take part in any discussion of the Committee and/or sub-committee relating to the Matter and be present at the time of the decision of the Committee and/or sub-committee (unless the Committee and/or sub-committee decides otherwise).

28.4 However, an Officer or member of a sub-committee who is prevented from voting on a Matter may still be counted for the purpose of determining whether there is a quorum at any meeting at which the Matter is considered.

28.5 Where 50 per cent or more of Officers are prevented from voting on a Matter because they are interested in that Matter, a Special General Meeting must be called to consider and determine the Matter, unless all non-interested Officers agree otherwise.

28.6 Where 50 per cent or more of the members of a sub-committee are prevented from voting on a Matter because they are interested in that Matter, the Committee shall consider and determine the Matter.

## **29. REGISTER OF MEMBERS**

29.1 The Society shall keep an up-to-date Register of Members.

29.2 For each current Member, the information contained in the Register of Members shall include:

- (i) their name, and
- (ii) the date on which they became a Member (if there is no record of the date they joined, this date will be recorded as 'Unknown'), and
- (iii) their contact details, including:
  - a. A physical address or an electronic address, and
  - b. A telephone number.
- (iv) the register will also include whether the Member is financial or unfinancial.

29.3 Every current Member shall promptly advise the Society of any change of the Member's contact details.

29.4 The Society shall also keep a record of the former Members of the Society. For each Member who ceased to be a Member within the previous 7 years, the Society will record:

- (i) the former Member's name, and
- (ii) the date the former Member ceased to be a Member.

## **30. INTERESTS REGISTER**

30.1 The Committee shall at all times maintain an up-to-date register of the interests disclosed by Officers and any Associate Members.

## **31. ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS**

31.1 A Member may at any time make a written request to the Society for information held by the Society.

31.2 The request must specify the information sought in sufficient detail to enable the information to be identified.

31.3 The Society must, within a reasonable time after receiving a request:

- (i) provide the information, or
- (ii) agree to provide the information within a specified period, or
- (iii) agree to provide the information within a specified period if the Member pays a reasonable charge to the Society (which must be specified and explained) to meet the cost of providing the information, or
- (iv) refuse to provide the information, specifying the reasons for the refusal.

31.4 Without limiting the reasons for which the Society may refuse to provide the information, the Society may refuse to provide the information if:

- (i) withholding the information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons, or
- (ii) the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial position of the Society or of any of its Members, or

- (iii) the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, prejudice the financial or commercial position of any other person, whether or not that person supplied the information to the Society, or
- (iv) the information is not relevant to the operation or affairs of the society, or
- (v) withholding the information is necessary to maintain legal professional privilege, or
- (vi) the disclosure of the information would, or would be likely to, breach an enactment, or
- (vii) the burden to the Society in responding to the request is substantially disproportionate to any benefit that the Member (or any other person) will or may receive from the disclosure of the information, or
- (viii) the request for the information is frivolous or vexatious, or
- (ix) the request seeks information about a Dispute or Complaint which is or has been the subject of the procedures for resolving such matters under this Constitution and the Act.

31.5 If the Society requires the Member to pay a charge for the information, the Member may withdraw the request, and must be treated as having done so unless, within 10 Working Days after receiving notification of the charge, the Member informs the Society:

- (i) that the Member will pay the charge; or
- (ii) that the Member considers the charge to be unreasonable.

31.6 Nothing in this rule limits Information Privacy Principle 6 of the Privacy Act 2020 relating to access to personal information.

## **32. FINANCES**

32.1 The funds and property of the Society shall be:

- (i) controlled, invested and disposed of by the Committee, subject to this Constitution, and
- (ii) devoted solely to the promotion of the purposes of the Society.

32.2 The Committee shall maintain bank accounts in the name of the Society.

32.3 All money received on account of the Society shall be banked as soon as reasonably possible.

32.4 All accounts paid or for payment shall be submitted to the Committee for approval of payment.

32.5 The Committee must ensure that there are kept at all times accounting records that:

- (i) correctly record the transactions of the Society, and
- (ii) allow the Society to produce financial statements that comply with the requirements of the Act, and
- (iii) would enable the financial statements to be readily and properly reviewed or audited (if required under any legislation or the Society's Constitution).

32.6 The Committee must establish and maintain a satisfactory system of control of the Society's accounting records.

32.7 The accounting records must be kept in written form or in a form or manner that is easily accessible and convertible into written form. The accounting records must be kept for the current accounting period and for the last 7 completed accounting periods of the Society.

32.8 The Society's financial year shall commence on 1 January of each year and end on 31 December (the latter date being the Society's balance date).

### **33. INSURANCE**

33.1 The Committee shall maintain such insurance as it considers appropriate from time to time.

### **34. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

34.1 A Dispute is a disagreement or conflict involving the Society and/or its Members in relation to specific allegations set out below.

34.2 The disagreement or conflict may be between any of the following persons:

- (i) 2 or more Members
- (ii) 1 or more Members and 1 or more Officers
- (iii) 2 or more Officers
- (iv) 1 or more Members or Officers and the Society.

34.3 The disagreement or conflict relates to any of the following allegations:

- (i) a Member or an Officer has engaged in misconduct
- (ii) a Member or an Officer has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the Society's Constitution or bylaws or the Act
- (iii) the Society has breached, or is likely to breach, a duty under the Society's Constitution or bylaws or the Act
- (iv) a Member's rights or interests as a Member have been damaged or Member's rights or interests generally have been damaged.

34.4 A Member or an Officer may make a Complaint by giving to the Committee (or a Complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that:

- (i) states that the Member or Officer is starting a procedure for resolving a Dispute in accordance with the Society's Constitution; and
- (ii) sets out the allegation(s) to which the Dispute relates and whom the allegation or allegations is or are against; and
- (iii) sets out any other information or allegations reasonably required by the Society.

34.5 The Society may make a Complaint involving an allegation against a Member or an Officer by giving to the Member or Officer a notice in writing that:

- (i) states that the Society is starting a procedure for resolving a Dispute in accordance with the Society's Constitution; and
- (ii) sets out the allegation to which the Dispute relates.

34.6 The information setting out the allegations must be sufficiently detailed to ensure that a person against whom an allegation or allegations is made is fairly advised of the allegation or

allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.

34.7 A Complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the Society's Constitution.

34.8 All Members (including the Committee) are obliged to cooperate to resolve Disputes efficiently, fairly, and with minimum disruption to the Society's activities.

34.9 The complainant raising a Dispute, and the Committee, must consider or discuss whether a Dispute may best be resolved through informal discussions, mediation, or arbitration. Where mediation or arbitration is agreed on, the parties will sign a suitable mediation or arbitration agreement.

## **35. HOW A COMPLAINT IS MADE**

35.1 A Member or an Officer may make a Complaint by giving to the Committee (or a Complaints subcommittee) a notice in writing that:

- (i) states that the Member or Officer is starting a procedure for resolving a Dispute in accordance with the Society's Constitution; and
- (ii) sets out the allegation or allegations to which the Dispute relates and whom the allegation is against; and
- (iii) sets out any other information reasonably required by the Society.

35.2 The Society may make a Complaint involving an allegation or allegations against a Member or an Officer by giving to the Member or Officer a notice in writing that:

- (i) states that the Society is starting a procedure for resolving a Dispute in accordance with the Society's Constitution; and
- (ii) sets out the allegation to which the Dispute relates.

35.3 The information given under subclause 35.1(ii) or 35.2(ii) must be sufficient to ensure that a person against whom an allegation is made is fairly advised of the allegation or allegations concerning them, with sufficient details given to enable that person to prepare a response.

35.4 A Complaint may be made in any other reasonable manner permitted by the Society's Constitution.

## **36. PERSON WHO MAKES COMPLAINT HAS RIGHT TO BE HEARD**

36.1 A Member or an Officer who makes a Complaint has a right to be heard before the Complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined.

36.2 If the Society makes a Complaint:

- (i) the Society has a right to be heard before the Complaint is resolved or any outcome is determined; and
- (ii) an Officer may exercise that right on behalf of the Society.

36.3. Without limiting the manner in which the Member, Officer, or Society may be given the right to be heard, they must be taken to have been given the right if

- (i) they have a reasonable opportunity to be heard in writing or at an oral hearing (if one is held); and
- (ii) an oral hearing is held if the decision maker considers that an oral hearing is needed to ensure an adequate hearing; and
- (iii) an oral hearing (if any) is held before the decision maker; and
- (iv) the Member's, Officer's, or Society's written or verbal statement or submissions (if any) are considered by the decision maker.

## **37. INVESTIGATING AND DETERMINING DISPUTE**

37.1 The Society must, as soon as is reasonably practicable after receiving or becoming aware of a Complaint made in accordance with its Constitution, ensure that the Dispute is investigated and determined.

37.2 Disputes must be dealt with under the Constitution in a fair, efficient, and effective manner and in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

## **38. SOCIETY MAY DECIDE NOT TO PROCEED FURTHER WITH COMPLAINT**

38.1 Despite the 'Investigating and determining Dispute' rule above, the Society may decide not to proceed further with a Complaint if:

- (i) the Complaint is considered to be trivial; or
- (ii) the Complaint does not appear to disclose or involve any allegation of the following kind:
  - a) that a Member or an Officer has engaged in material misconduct;
  - b) that a Member, an Officer, or the Society has materially breached, or is likely to materially breach, a duty under the Society's Constitution or bylaws or the Act;
  - c) that a Member's rights or interests or Members' rights or interests generally have been materially damaged;
- (iii) the Complaint appears to be without foundation or there is no apparent evidence to support it; or
- (iv) the person who makes the Complaint has an insignificant interest in the matter; or
- (v) the conduct, incident, event, or issue giving rise to the Complaint has already been investigated and dealt with under the Constitution; or
- (vi) there has been an undue delay in making the Complaint.

## **39. SOCIETY MAY REFER COMPLAINT**

39.1 The Society may refer a Complaint to:

- (i) a subcommittee or an external person to investigate and report; or
- (ii) a subcommittee, an arbitral tribunal, or an external person to investigate and make a decision.

39.2 The Society may, with the consent of all parties to a Complaint, refer the Complaint to any type of consensual Dispute resolution (for example, mediation or facilitation).

## **40. DECISION MAKERS**

40.1 A person may not act as a decision maker in relation to a Complaint if 2 or more members of the Committee or a Complaints subcommittee consider that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the person may not be:

- (i) impartial; or
- (ii) able to consider the matter without a predetermined view.

40.2 The decision-maker, in considering and determining a Complaint in accordance with this Constitution may:

- (i) order the complainant (if a Member) or the Member complained against, to meet any of the Society's reasonable costs in dealing with a Complaint; and
- (ii) make such directions as the decision-maker thinks appropriate (with which the Society and Members shall comply), including upholding a Complaint; and
  - a) reprimanding or admonishing the Member; and/or
  - b) suspending the Member from Membership for a specified period; or
  - c) terminating the Member's Membership.

## **41. LIQUIDATION AND REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER**

41.1 The Society may be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the Act.

41.2 The Committee shall give 30 Working Days written Notice to all Members of the proposed resolution to put the Society into liquidation.

41.3 The Committee shall also give written Notice to all Members of the General Meeting at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The Notice shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the Act.

41.4 Any resolution to put the Society into liquidation must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all Members present and voting.

## **42. RESOLVING TO APPLY FOR REMOVAL FROM THE REGISTER**

42.1 The Society may be removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 of the Act.

42.2 The Committee shall give 20 Working Days written Notice to all Members of the proposed resolution to remove the Society from the Register of Incorporated Societies.

42.3 The Committee shall also give written Notice to all Members of the General Meeting at which any such proposed resolution is to be considered. The Notice shall include all information as required by section 228(4) of the Act.

42.4 Any resolution to remove the Society from the Register of Incorporated Societies must be passed by a two-thirds majority of all Members present and voting.

### **43. SURPLUS ASSETS**

43.1 If the Society is liquidated, or removed from the Register of Incorporated Societies, no distribution shall be made to any Member, and if any property remains after the settlement of the Society's debts and liabilities, that property must be given or transferred to another organisation for a charitable purpose or purposes as defined in section 5(1) of the Charities Act 2005.

### **44. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

44.1 This Constitution may be altered, added to or amended by resolution at any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Society provided that no such resolution shall be deemed to have been passed unless prior notice was given in accordance with clauses 12.4(ii) and 12.4(iii).

44.2 The Society may amend or replace this Constitution at a General Meeting by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those Members present and voting.

44.3 That amendment could be approved by a resolution passed in lieu of a meeting but only if allowed by this Constitution.

44.4 At least 20 Working Days before the General Meeting at which any amendment is to be considered the Committee shall give to all Members notice of the proposed resolution, the reasons for the proposal, and any recommendations the Committee has.

44.5 When an amendment is approved by a General Meeting it shall be notified to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies within 25 Working Days in the form and manner specified in the Act for registration, and shall take effect from the date of registration.

44.6 If the society is registered as a charity under the Charities Act 2005 the amendment shall also be notified to Charities Services as required by section 40 of that Act.

### **45. BYLAWS**

45.1 Without limiting the powers of the Committee as set out in this Constitution, the Committee has the power to make and amend bylaws and policies, for the conduct and control of the Society's activities, and any codes of conduct applicable to Members, provided that no such bylaws, policies, or codes of conduct applicable to Members shall be inconsistent with this Constitution, the Act, regulations made under the Act or any other legislation.

PETER GRANT - CHAIRPERSON  
GWYNETH LEVICK - TREASURER  
JUDITE SCRIVENER - SECRETARY