

Wantage & District Chamber of Commerce “RULES” September 2019

1. TITLE

The Association shall be called “The Wantage and District Chamber of Commerce.”

2. OBJECTS OF THE CHAMBER

- (a) To promote members and their interests and those of the Chamber collectively.
- (b) To hold special meetings when matters of public interest arise and consider the same from the Chamber’s point of view.
- (c) To support any movement calculated to attract house-holders and employers of labour to the district of Wantage and to popularise the district as a shopping centre. The Chamber to be empowered to advertise the advantages of the town.
- (d) To promote or support entertainment or social functions for the benefit of the Chamber or local charitable objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) Individual traders.
- (b) Firms, companies, corporations and businesses under management to be represented by an authorised nominee; voting by proxy being allowed, but only one vote for each subscription paid.
- (c) Any member of profession, subject in the case of a Partnership to one vote for each subscription paid.
- (d) Life members who shall not be liable to pay any subscription but shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership may be elected at any General Meeting.
- (e) Every candidate for membership must be proposed by one member and seconded by another, both the proposer and the seconder being members, the name, address and occupation of every candidate proposed for every membership together with the names of his proposer and seconder shall be announced at a General Meeting and the proposition shall be formally put to the next General Meeting.

4. DISQUALIFICATION

Any member whose subscription shall be six months in arrears shall be reminded of the late payment by a friendly word from the Chairman. Should it be necessary for two further reminders to be issued membership will cease automatically, but the member may apply for re-election.

5. MANAGEMENT

- (a) There shall be a President, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, who, together with three ordinary members all elected bi-annually at the Annual General Meeting and the immediate past President, shall constitute the General Committee of the Chamber.
- (b) All Officers and Committee Members shall retire bi-annually and be eligible for re-election to office or Committee.
- (c) The General Committee shall have power to fill any vacancy which may occur during the year and to appoint one or more sub-Committees for such purpose as it may deem expedient and to co-opt members for any special purpose. Three members shall constitute a quorum of the General Committee and two a quorum of a sub-Committee.

- (d) In the event of any question arising requiring urgent attention, the Chairman and/or Vice-Chairman, Secretary and two other members of the Committee shall be an emergency Committee to deal with the matter. Three to form a quorum.
- (e) To keep all members fully informed, the Minutes of all Committee Meetings shall be read at the next General Meeting of the Chamber.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS

- (a) The Annual General Meeting, of which seven days' notice shall be given, to be held during the month of October. A Balance Sheet shall be presented to the Annual General Meeting.
- (b) A General Meeting of the Chamber shall be held on the second Tuesday of each month.
- (c) The Committee may call a special General Meeting at any time and shall be bound to do so on the receipt of a request signed by at least six members.
- (d) At any General meeting every member shall be entitled to be present and to one vote (subject to Rule 3) upon each question raised. In the case of equality of voting, the Chairman of the Meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

7. GENERAL

- (a) The annual subscription for the ensuing year shall be fixed at the Annual General Meeting and shall be payable on election to Membership and thereafter on the 1st of November in every year without demand.
- (b) The General Committee may suspend the membership of any member whose conduct is or has been, in the opinion of the Committee, contrary to the interests of the Chamber or injurious to its reputation. Unless such member shall have tendered their resignation within seven days of being given notices of their suspension, the Secretary shall convene a Meeting of the General Committee within twenty-one days of the date of the notice of suspension and give notice to the suspended member at their address as last notified to the Secretary and inform them that if so desirous they may be present at the said meeting and at any such meeting any allegations against the suspended member shall be related (in their presence if they attend) to the meeting by a member of the General Committee and the suspended member shall (if they desire) be heard in answer, a reasonable adjournment to enable them to prepare their answer being allowed in the discretion of the meeting. The decision of the General Committee at the said meeting or the adjourned meeting whether to reinstate the suspended member or to terminate their membership shall be taken by vote and shall be final and conclusive.
- (c) Discussions of religious or party political matters shall not be allowed at any meeting of the Chamber.

8. ALTERATION OF RULES

These rules shall not be added to or amended except at a Special General Meeting, notice being given in the Agenda for that Meeting. A two-thirds majority of those present and voting shall be required for any alteration or amendment.