



PRESTON and ELMSTONE VILLAGE SOCIETY

Draft rev 2 CONSTITUTION

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be Preston and Elmstone Village Society.

2. AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Society shall be:

- a. to stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history and character of the village and its surroundings including the development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest.
- b. to take an active interest in all matters affecting the well-being of the inhabitants of the village including the encouragement of high standards of village planning and architecture.
- c. the organisation of meetings, publications, lectures, exhibitions and publicity and special interest groups in order to pursue the above aims and objectives
- d. the organisation or sponsorship of social events and events of general interest within the village.
- e. to organise and seek funding for the various village activities and organisations.
- f. To oversee the Parish Plan action plan and expedite outstanding items in that plan.
- g. To produce, edit and distribute the Preston and Elmstone quarterly Newsletter.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all residents of the Parish of Preston.

To promote membership and liaison with existing village clubs and societies.

4. GOVERNANCE

a. Committee

Responsibility for the running of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in the Committee which shall consist of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to ten further committee members, all of whom shall be elected by the Annual General Meeting.

The committee shall meet monthly.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt up to three further members according to needs and circumstances.

A quorum for meetings of the Committee shall consist of six committee members.

b. Annual General Meeting

Overall responsibility for the Society shall vest in the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the membership which shall be held in or about April of each year. The AGM shall receive the annual report of the Committee, discuss motions and business contained in the Agenda for the Meeting and elect the Officers and Committee Members. Members shall be given ten clear days notice of the AGM, of which notice shall be deemed to have been given by publication in the 'Preston and Elmstone Newsletter' and the placing of notices on the Preston Parish website (www.prestonparishplan.co.uk). Notices of Motions, duly seconded, shall be in the hands of the Secretary five working days before the AGM but the Chairman of the AGM shall accept Motions at the AGM, which could not have been submitted by that date or which arise as a result of business at the AGM. A quorum for the AGM shall consist of 20 parish members present.

c. Nominations and Elections

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members shall be made at or before the AGM. Such nominations, duly seconded, shall signify the consent of the nominee. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall be completed prior to the election of the further Committee Members. The Officers and Committee Members shall relinquish office every second year at the time at the AGM and shall be eligible for re-election if nominated. If nominations for Officers and Committee are equal or less than the total number of vacancies the committee may be elected 'en bloc'.



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d. Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting (SGM) may be held at the request of 20 parish members or by Committee decision. Within five days of receipt of such a request, which shall give notice of the Motion, or business to be discussed, the Secretary shall give ten clear days notice of the SGM to all members setting forth the Motion or business to be discussed. The notice shall be deemed to have been given by publication in the 'Preston and Elmstone Newsletter' and the placing of notices on Preston Parish website, (www.prestonparishplan.co.uk). Village Hall and Village notice boards. The SGM shall consider only such business as appears on the agenda for the meeting. A quorum for the SGM shall constitute 20 parish (including committee) members present.

e. Special Interest Groups

The Committee may establish Special Interest Groups charged to act on behalf of the Committee in pursuit of specific long term objectives of the Society.

A Special Interest Group shall:

- have a long term existence
- work within Terms of Reference approved by the Committee
- have at least one representative who is an elected member of the Committee

f. Affiliated Groups

The Committee may from time to time give approval for an external group to organise events or activities on behalf of the Committee.

Such an affiliated group shall:

- have a short term affiliation - for the duration of a specific event or set of events only
- conduct its business and liaise with the Committee in accordance with guidelines agreed with the Committee
- have at least one representative on the Committee (elected or co-opted)

5. FINANCE

The Committee shall, out of the moneys received by the Society, meet all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society and shall make such payments as are directed by an AGM, or SGM, or agreed upon by the Committee. Details of all items of income and expenditure shall be set forth in an annual account, duly audited, to be presented to the AGM. The auditors shall be elected at the AGM. The Committee shall not borrow money long term without the approval of an AGM or SGM. Short term borrowing to maximum of £1,000.00. (one to six months) may be authorised by the committee.

In the event of winding-up the Society, the available funds of the Society shall be disposed of in accordance with the approval of an AGM or SGM deciding to wind-up the Society and distributed in equal amounts to other existing village societies.

6. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority present at an AGM or SGM provided that prior notice of the amendment has been given in accordance with paragraphs 4b or 4d of the Constitution.