

The Maldon Society

CONSTITUTION (2016)

1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be The Maldon Society (hereinafter referred to as "the Society").

2. OBJECTIVES

The Society is established for the public benefit for the following purposes in the area comprising Maldon Town and the immediate environs (hereinafter referred to as "the area").

1. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in the area.
2. To inform the public in the geography, history, maritime heritage, natural history and diverse architecture in the area.
3. To encourage the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in the area.

In furtherance of the above purposes, the Executive Committee will endeavour :

1. To promote civic pride in the area.
2. To promote co-operation with the local authorities, planning committees and all other local organisations whose aims compliment the aims of the Society.
3. To publish reports of the Society's activities.
4. To hold meetings, lectures and exhibitions.
5. To educate public opinion and to give advice and information.
6. To raise funds for the benefit of the Society and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donations and otherwise.

3. MEMBERSHIP

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.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The current subscription rates shall be determined by the Executive Committee. Renewal membership subscriptions shall be due on 1st April each year. Any new member joining mid year will be charged on a pro-rata basis for the number of months remaining up to April. Membership shall lapse if the subscription reminder remains unpaid.

5. MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about May of each year to receive the Executive Committee's report and audited accounts. The election of Officers, Members of the Executive Committee and the Examiner of Accounts shall be proposed and seconded by members. Twenty members personally present shall constitute a quorum for the General Meetings of the Society.

Special General Meetings of the Society shall be held at the written request of fifteen or more members whose subscriptions are fully paid up.

The Executive Committee shall give at least seven days' notice to members of all Meetings of the Society.

6. OFFICERS

Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meetings. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. The elections of Officers shall be completed prior to the election of further Executive Committee members. Nominees for election of Officers or Executive Committee members shall declare before the Annual General Meeting, at which their election is to be considered, any financial or professional interest known or likely to be of concern to the Society.

The Officers of the Society shall consist of :
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer

all of whom shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. A President may also be elected at an Annual Meeting of the Society. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill casual vacancies occurring among the Officers of the Society.

7. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Society. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and up to ten other members.

The Committee shall have power to co-opt advisors (who shall attend in a non-voting capacity). The President may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. In the event of equality in the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

Nominations for election to the Executive Committee shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting. They must be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place in such manner as shall be determined.

Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Society and 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 Honorary Secretary shall give all members not less than seven days' notice of each meeting. Each member of the Executive Committee should commit to attending as many meetings as possible.

The quorum shall, as near as may be, comprise one third of the members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fill up to three vacancies occurring among members of the Executive Committee between General Meetings.

All decisions in the Executive Committee meetings will be decided by a show of hands and minuted. The minutes will be available for members of the Society to read at the monthly talks meetings.

8. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee may constitute such sub-committees from time to time for such purposes as shall be thought fit. 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.

9. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

It shall be the duty of every member who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any meeting of the Society (including any meeting of any Committee or Sub-Committee) at which he or she may be present to declare such interest and he or she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

10. EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The Executive Committee shall, out of the funds of the Society, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Society. After the payment of the administration and management expenses and the setting aside to reserve such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds of the Society shall be applied by the Executive Committee in furtherance of the purposes of the Society.
For the bank current account of the Society, there will be four signatories, of which two will be needed for each cheque.

11. INVESTMENT

All money at any time belonging to the Society and not required for immediate application for its purpose shall be invested by the Executive Committee in such investments as it may think fit. All the Assets of the Society shall be documented and the current list held by the Honorary Treasurer.

12. 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 twenty-eight days' notice of the proposed amendment has been given to all members.

13. DISSOLUTION

The Society may be dissolved by a two-thirds majority of members present and 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 fourteen 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 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 and other assets of the Society shall be transferred to such one or more 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.