

Cambridge Natural History Society

Rules

I. Name, objects and functions

1. The Society shall be called "The Cambridge Natural History Society".
2. The object of the Society is to promote the advancement and improvement of general education about natural history for the benefit of the public in Cambridge and its environs.
3. The Society shall achieve its object by holding meetings at which talks may be given and exhibitions made; by holding field meetings, by collecting and recording; and by such means as, from time to time, the Society shall consider desirable.
4. The Society shall hold an annual *Conversazione*.
5. The permanent address of the Society is c/o The Balfour Library, Department of Zoology, Downing Street, Cambridge.

II. Membership

1. The Society shall consist of Ordinary and Honorary Members.
2. Ordinary Members. Any persons with an interest in natural history shall be eligible to be Ordinary Members of the Society, and shall become Members upon paying the applicable subscription.
3. The subscription for Ordinary Membership of the Society shall be determined by the Council of the Society from time to time. Annual subscriptions may be compounded into a single payment for Life Membership.
4. Honorary Members. These shall be proposed by the Council of the Society and elected at an Annual General Meeting. Honorary Members shall not be required to pay any subscription.

III. Privileges of Members

1. Members shall be entitled to be present at all meetings and excursions and other functions of the Society.
2. Members shall be entitled to be informed of all the Society's meetings, excursions or other functions. It is the responsibility of each Member to ensure that the Membership Secretary is given the Member's up to date contact details.
3. At the discretion of the Society Archivist, Members may be given access to the records of the Society provided that the Council is informed at the next Council meeting.
4. Members of other local societies, for which Council has agreed reciprocal arrangements, may attend open meetings as if they were Members. This does not include the right to vote at any Annual General Meeting.
5. Council may suspend the privileges of a Member if given reasonable cause to do so.

IV. The Officers and Council of the Society

1. The Officers of the Society shall be a President, up to three Vice-Presidents (one of whom may be the President-elect), a General Secretary, a Membership Secretary, a Programme Secretary, a Publicity Secretary, a Treasurer, an Archivist, and up to three Recorders.
2. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by a Council consisting of the Officers of the Society together with three elected Members and up to three co-opted Members. In the event of a vacancy arising on the Council during any year, the Council shall have power to fill the vacancy until the next General Meeting or Annual General Meeting. The Council shall arrange the meetings and excursions of the Society and deal with the other business of the Society.
3. If a Council Member fails to attend or apologise for their absence for three consecutive Council Meetings they shall be deemed to have resigned from the Council.
3. It shall be the duty of Council to publish, in October, January and April, a programme of the Society's meetings for that session.
4. The Council shall meet at least once in each session, six persons forming a quorum for the transaction of business.
5. It shall be the duty of the Recorders (if any) to collect the records of their specialities, to verify them as necessary and to submit them annually to the Records Centre for Cambridgeshire and to any other appropriate centres.

V. The Transaction of business at Annual General Meetings, other General Meetings and Council Meetings.

1. The Annual General Meeting shall be held on a date between March 1 and June 30 each year. At least fourteen days' notice of the meeting shall be given. The AGM may coincide with other meetings of the Society.
2. At the Annual General Meeting the Officers of the Society and the other members of the Council shall retire. Officers and Council shall be nominated and elected by a simple majority of Ordinary Members present and voting. Retiring Officers and Members of Council shall be eligible for re-election.
3. At the Annual General Meeting the President and the Secretaries shall read their annual reports and the Treasurer shall submit the accounts for the preceding calendar year.
4. Other business may be transacted, and vacancies on the Council may be filled at any General Meeting of the Society.
5. An Extraordinary General Meeting for the transaction of business may be called at any time, and must be called on receipt by the President of a request signed by not less than 20 of the Ordinary Members. Fourteen days' notice of such a meeting shall be given.
6. At Council meetings of the Society the Chair shall be taken by the President, a deputy who shall be nominated by the President, or failing which the Chair shall be elected by the Council Members present. The Chair must be an Officer of the Society. In cases of equality of vote the Chair shall have a double or casting vote.
7. Any alterations to these rules shall only be made at a meeting of Council and shall be effected by a two-to-one majority of Council members voting, provided always that no amendment shall be made which would have the effect of making the Society cease to be a charity at law.
8. All other decisions of Council, except pursuant to paragraph VI, must be made by simple majority.
9. The Society may, if the Council decides, allow participation in any meeting as referred to in this paragraph V by using suitable electronic means agreed by the Council, in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants; anyone so participating shall qualify as being present at the meeting.

VI. Dissolution.

1. The Society shall be dissolved only by a resolution passed at a meeting of the Council convened for the purpose of considering such dissolution and shall be effected by a two-to-one majority.
- 2 If on the winding up or dissolution of the Society there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the Members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to some other charity or charities having objects similar to the objects of the Society and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property among its or their members, such charity or charities to be determined by the Council by a simple majority at or before the time of dissolution.

2 February 2022