

WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Headquarters: Earsdon & Wellfield Community Centre, 3 Church Way, Earsdon. NE25 9JY

CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY

1. **TITLE**

The name of the Society shall be WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

2. **OBJECTS**

The aims and objects of the Society shall be :

- (a) The study and advancement of all forms of photographic imaging and its application to other branches of knowledge.
- (b) The holding of exhibitions, displays and public shows of current and historic photography and photographic techniques for the benefit of the public of the area.
- (c) To make available to the public, by way of membership of the Society and otherwise, demonstrations of and training in photographic techniques and photographic education generally.
- (d) To bring to the public in the general area of the Society a greater awareness of the benefits of photography in the widest possible sense.

3. **AREA OF BENEFIT**

The Society will generally operate in Whitley Bay and the surrounding area.

4. **POWERS**

To further the objects, WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, has the power to:

- (a) Recruit volunteers.
- (b) Work in partnership with other organisations.
- (c) Acquire and dispose of property and equipment (subject to any consents required by law).
- (d) Invest funds in any lawful way.
- (e) Raise funds by any lawful means except permanent trading.
- (f) Accept gifts either for the general purposes of WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, or for a specific purpose within or connected with the objects of the Society.
- (g) Do anything else within the law which promotes or helps to promote the objects.
- (h) Establish and modify rules for the daily and competitive activities of the Society, such rules to be maintained as a separate document.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- a) Membership is open to any individual aged 18 or over on payment of the appropriate annual subscription fee as set at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- b) Junior membership is open to any individual aged under 18 on payment of the appropriate annual subscription fee (See also Section 6). The junior tariff will be applied to students up to 21 years in full time education
- c) Each member over 18 years of age has one vote
- d) The Committee will maintain an up-to-date register of members of the Society.
- e) Each member is required to pay the annual subscription unless, before the date on which the subscription is due (1st September each year), he/she gives written notice of his/her resignation to the General Secretary. Any member failing to give this notice shall be liable to pay that year's subscription.
- f) Any member who has not paid their subscription by the end of October, or within four (4) weeks of joining the Society, shall be alerted by the treasurer. If their subscription then remains unpaid for a further four (4) weeks their membership may be reviewed by the Committee.
- g) The Committee shall have the power to confer Honorary Membership, or to remit the whole or part of a member's subscription in special circumstances.
- h) Any member thought to have harmed the Society may be expelled from or asked to resign from the Society at the decision of the Committee. However, no member shall be expelled or asked to resign without first being given the opportunity to prepare and provide an explanation or defence of his/her action. A member expelled or asked to resign shall also have the right to appeal at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society called for the purpose. All Committee proceedings and any Extraordinary General Meetings called at the request of a member under this rule shall be treated as privileged and confidential. Two thirds (2/3) of the members present shall be required to vote against the said member in order that the expulsion becomes effective.

6. CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Children & young people (defined as under 18 years of age) are welcome to join the society but the written agreement of a parent or guardian is required to comply with child protection best practice. On receipt of a signed Parental Consent Form, 16 to 18 year-old members may attend club meetings and activities unaccompanied. Under 16's must be accompanied at club meetings and activities by a parent or a person designated by the parent in a written consent form. The person accompanying the child must be a member of the society or take out membership. All members of the society must act appropriately at all times towards children & young people in the club and at external club activities and must protect them from harm.

7. THE COMMITTEE

- a) The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Committee of not less than five (5) and not more than thirteen (13) members, five (5) of whom shall form a quorum.
- b) All Committee members must be members of the Society.
- c) The Committee may consist of a President (who will normally act as the chair), Immediate Past President, Vice President, General Secretary, Programme Secretary, Treasurer, Competition Secretary (External), Competition Secretary (Internal), Social Secretary, Publicity Officer, and Webmaster together with up to two (2) elected members.
- d) Each member of the Committee may hold up to two (2) posts, except that, the posts of Secretary and Treasurer may not be held by one individual.
- e) The President and Vice-President shall retire after two (2) consecutive years in office.
- f) Officers and Elected Representatives shall retire annually.
- g) On retirement from the Committee, members of the Society retain eligibility for election to any post.
- h) Candidates for election to any post or Committee shall be proposed by a member of the Society, seconded by another and balloted at the AGM. Where two (2) or more members are nominated for a position, an individual ballot shall be taken. Nominations for the Officers and Members of Committee may be lodged with the General Secretary at any time up to the time fixed by the President at the AGM for voting on such nominations.

- i) Each Committee member shall have one vote, and if the vote is tied, the chair has a second casting vote.
- j) Any member holding more than one post shall only have one vote on the Committee.
- k) The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to two (2) members to fill any vacant posts until the next AGM, or to fulfil the need for additional functions identified during the current year. Each co-opted member has one vote.
- l) The Committee has the power to establish Sub-Committees, as required for specific purposes.
- m) A formal record shall be kept of all Committee meetings.

8. GENERAL MEETINGS

- a) The Committee shall give all members 14 days notice of any General Meeting, the business of the meeting being stated.
- b) All members are entitled to attend and vote at any General Meeting.
- c) Fifteen (15) members shall form a quorum or, if the Society membership falls below thirty (30), half the membership shall form a quorum.
- d) A formal record of any General Meeting shall be kept.
- e) The AGM shall be held in April each year, or as soon as possible afterwards.
- f) The AGM will:
 - i. Receive nominations for the President and other Committee members when such are due for re-election.
 - ii. Elect the President and other Committee members.
 - iii. Receive a report of the years activities.
 - iv. Receive the years accounts.
 - v. Agree the annual subscriptions.
 - vi. Appoint an external examiner for the accounts.

- g) An Extraordinary General Meeting of the Society may be called by the Committee, or by any group of five (5) members in writing, the business of the meeting being stated.

9. FINANCE :

- a) Changes to annual subscriptions agreed at the AGM shall take effect immediately.
- b) All funds belonging to or raised for WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY must be used in furthering the objects.
- c) The financial year shall end on 31st March ; the Treasurer shall keep an account of all income and expenditure, and shall present examined accounts at the AGM.
- d) There shall be one or more Bank or Building Society accounts in the name of the society. Cheques shall be signed by two (2) authorised signatories who must not be related. The President, Secretary, Treasurer and one other nominated Committee member shall be deemed authorised signatories.
- e) Any member may claim reasonable out-of-pocket expenses on terms approved by the Committee.

10. CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution can only be changed at a General Meeting. For the constitution to be changed two thirds (2/3) of the members present must agree. Details of any proposed changes shall be notified to the membership when notice is given of the meeting.

11. DISSOLUTION

WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY can only be dissolved at a General Meeting and requires the agreement of two thirds (2/3) of the members present. Details of any proposed dissolution shall be notified to the membership when notice is given of the meeting.

On dissolution of the Society all property shall be realised by the Committee. The proceeds of the Society, after the discharge of the Society's debts upon dissolution shall be applied to other charitable purposes.

12. AVAILABILITY

A copy of this constitution shall be available to all members of the Society.

This amended constitution was approved at a General Meeting of
WHITLEY BAY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY
at the Society's rooms, 3 Waverley Avenue, Monkseaton
on Tuesday 25th April 2023

Signed by

Gillian Williams Chair

Peter Reynolds Secretary

Garry Dawson Treasurer