

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE HARNHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION**

As amended 2005

The Harnham Neighbourhood Association was formed in 1974.

## **Item 1            Object of the Association**

The object of the Harnham Neighbourhood Association is to elect a committee which shall be its representative body in promoting the interests of Harnham residents.

## **Item 2            Membership**

Membership of the Harnham Neighbourhood Association is free and the right of all residents appearing on the current electoral register as published by the statutory electoral register.

## **Item 3            Meetings**

The administrative year to commence with the election of Officers and appropriate representatives at the Annual General Meeting, which shall take place during the month of September, unless otherwise approved by an extraordinary meeting of the Association. All Harnham electors present at the meeting are qualified to participate in the voting on all resolutions put before the meeting. The precise date of the Annual General Meeting, to be decided at the preceding meeting of the Association Committee in July. The date of the Annual General Meeting to be advertised in a local paper publication and additionally should be advertised by local poster displays and on the website.

Association Committee meetings of elected members will take place on alternate monthly occasions for the ensuing year, but extra-ordinary meetings may be called at the request of a minimum of eight (8) members of the Association. After the Chair's Report on the previous year's business the Chair will be vacated and the election of Chairperson shall be supervised by a nominee from the floor of the meeting and upon successful election of the Chairperson that person will preside over the rest of the business of the Annual and subsequent meetings.

## **Item 4            Nominations**

Nominations for candidate vacancies should be sent to the Secretary seven (7) days prior to the published date of the Annual General Meeting, the nomination signed by the proposer and seconder who must be qualifying residents as mentioned in Item 3, and must include the written consent of the proposed candidate. Nominations may be made at the Annual General Meeting but require the written consent of the proposed candidate. In the event of more than one (1) nomination being made for any one of the posts available, provision must be made for a secret ballot to take place. In the event of more than two (2) nominations being received unless there is more than 50% majority of the votes cast being secured by the majority candidate, a further vote will take place between the top two (2) candidates for the allocable position.

**Item 5 Eligibility**

An elector is eligible to seek election to the Committee of the Association if - His or Her name appears on the Electoral Register for the Harnham ward as published under the Representation of the Peoples Act and who is not disqualified in any circumstances set out in any legislation relating to the Act at the time in force.

The Council shall consist of:

- a. Chairperson
- b. Secretary
- c. Treasurer
- d. 3 representatives from the CR & CT East Harnham polling districts  
3 representatives from the CU West Harnham polling district  
3 representatives from the CS West Harnham polling district

The Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected annually. Representatives are elected for a period of three (3) years with each member retiring at the conclusion of that three (3) year service, but eligible to seek re-election if consenting and duly proposed. The representative must live within the polling district they represent.

**Item 6 Ex Officio Members**

These shall be each of the sitting District Councillors for the East and West Harnham wards, the sitting County Councillor/s and one member from each of the church bodies practising in Harnham, who shall be eligible to vote on all matters.

**Item 7 Casual Vacancies**

If a Council Member:

- (a) Resigns in writing delivered to the Chairperson
- (b) Ceases to reside in the Harnham ward
- (c) Is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings of the Council unless by reason accepted by the Committee
- (d) Becomes ineligible by virtue of ex-officio status under item 6

then this creates a vacancy, which will be filled at the next meeting of the Committee, or in the absence of a candidate the position will be open to nomination to the Secretary by notification placed at local Sub-Post Offices.

**Co-option** - The Committee has the power to co-opt if it so disposes by virtue of the taking of a vote.

**Item 8            Quorum**

A quorum shall consist of at least eight (8) members including Officers, with the Chairperson holding a casting vote in the event of a tied vote on any proposition placed before the Committee.

**Item 9            Vice Chair**

The election to this position will take place at the FIRST meeting of the Committee following the Annual General Meeting.