

WARRINGTON LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

RULES (revised and agreed as at November 2023)

1. OBJECTIVES

- a.** The object of the Society is to promote a widening of the public interest in the arts, sciences and current affairs through lectures and discussions.
- b.** No lecture or discussion shall be allowed which seeks to advance a specific political or religious belief.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- a.** A person becomes a member by paying the annual subscription fee which is **normally** due on or before the October meeting.
- b.** Guests may attend individual meetings by payment of a fee.
- c.** All fees are determined from time to time by the Council and approved by simple majority at an Annual or Special General Meeting (AGM, SGM).
- d.** Membership shall run from the first day of October to the last day of September, subject to 2.a.

3. MANAGEMENT

- a.** The management of the Society shall be vested in the Society's Council as described below.
- b.** Council consists of the Society's Officers: the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Speaker Secretary, Membership Secretary plus no more than three other members.
- c.** The President and Vice President shall be elected by a simple majority at the AGM or an SGM.
- d.** The other Council members are elected by a simple majority at the AGM or an SGM. They normally serve for three years but can serve for longer. If there is a Council vacancy after such an election Council can co-opt a member. A co-option can also be made to add to the knowledge and experience available on Council.
- e.** The President serves for two years and can be re-elected after an interim of two years. The Vice-President, who will become President, also serves for two years. Should the President relinquish the post, the Vice-President will take over. The other Officers have no maximum period of service.
- f.** The Society's other Officers shall be elected by the Council.

4. MEETINGS

- a.** The Society will normally meet six times per Session on the first Mondays of October, November, December, February, March and April.
- b.** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held immediately prior to the April meeting. The Officers shall submit their reports and the Election of Officers and

members of the Council will take place. Members must be given at least 21 days notice of the AGM and any SGM along with the Agenda and any reports to be considered at the meeting. As circumstances require, meetings may be convened in person, online, or by combination of the two, at the discretion of the Council.

- c. The Council has the power to call a Special General Meeting of the Society should circumstances require this.
- d. In addition to the above (3.b. & 3.c.) members shall be invited to submit items of other business at least 14 days in advance of the AGM or SGM to the Secretary.
- e. At any general meeting each member present shall have one vote. Ten members present shall be a quorum. If a quorum is not present within fifteen minutes of the time appointed for the meeting the meeting shall be dissolved.
- f. The President chairs all Society meetings. In his or her absence the Vice-President takes the chair. In the absence of both of those Officers another officer, or member, is elected as Chair by the meeting, this would exclude the Treasurer.

4. FINANCES

- a. The Treasurer shall keep the Society's accounts and shall submit an audited balance sheet at the AGM.
- b. The financial year shall run from the first day of March to the last day of February.

5. CHANGING THE RULES

- a. Rule changes can be made at an AGM or SGM. Such changes must be agreed by a two-thirds majority of those present.
- b. The Council may propose Rule changes. In addition any members may propose a change of rule(s) to be debated at the AGM. Details of the change must be provided in writing to the Secretary 14 days prior to the relevant preceding meeting of the Council.

6. PUBLICATION OF THE RULES

Any member has the right to see the Rules and obtain a copy from the Secretary.

STANDING ORDERS FOR THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY

1. The Proposer shall be called upon first to move the motion. The Seconder will then be asked to speak but may second formally and reserve the right to do in the debate. In the absence of the Proposer or Seconder other members may do so if they have the former's agreement.
2. Any amendment to a motion shall be moved after the motion has been proposed and seconded. The Chair must have a written copy of the amendment. If the amendment is not seconded it shall fall.
3. If more than one amendment is submitted to a motion they will be proposed in the order in which they seek to amend the motion.
4. After a motion and all amendments to it have been moved and seconded there shall be a single debate on all of them.
5. Any member wishing to speak may do so only when invited by the Chair. Each member will only be permitted to speak once in the debate on a particular motion and on any amendments to it, save that the proposer shall have the right to a brief reply.
6. The Chair of the meeting shall manage the discussion including specifying the time available for each speaker. Proposers shall have more time than other speakers
7. Any member may at any time raise a point of order which shall be in the form of a question to the Chair relating to the procedure of the meeting. This may also challenge a ruling of the Chair, or request that the meeting 'move to a vote' on either an amendment or motion. If this is seconded, the Chair will immediately bring the discussion to an end and take a vote on that proposal by a show of hands. If a majority is achieved, the procedural proposal on the motion being discussed shall take immediate effect.
8. After closing the debate, the Chair of the meeting shall invite the proposer of the motion to respond to it, always assuming that points have been raised which need a response. No discussion may take place after this.
9. The Chair shall then call for a vote on each amendment in the same order as they were proposed, followed by a vote on the substantive motion as amended. Voting shall be by a show of hands and votes for, against and abstentions shall be counted.

