

# SHOREHAM DISTRICT ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## RULES & OBJECTIVES

### OBJECTIVES

- a) to promote the study and protection of birds and their environment, especially within the Society's recording area.
- b) to publish information for members from time to time as may be considered desirable.
- c) to arrange field outings for members throughout the year, and indoor meetings between October and April (inclusive).
- d) to co-operate with the RSPB, BTO, Sussex Ornithological Society, and other ornithological organisations, in matters of common interest.

### RULES

#### 1. NAME

The name of the Society shall be the Shoreham District Ornithological Society. (SDOS)

#### 2. MEMBERSHIP

The Society shall consist of 'single' members, 'joint' members (two persons living at the same address) and student members. Life Membership has not been offered since the 2014 AGM but existing Life Membership is unchanged. The Council may in its discretion, and if circumstances require, alter the categories of membership referred to above, or add other categories thereto.

#### 3. STUDENT MEMBERS

Student membership does not carry the right to vote, nor to membership of the Council.

#### 4. HONORARY MEMBERS

At the discretion of the Council, an individual may be made an Honorary Life Member. An Honorary Life member shall not be required to pay any subscription; they shall not have the right to vote at any meeting; they shall be entitled to all other privileges of membership.

#### 5. REMOVAL FROM MEMBERSHIP

In addition to the provisions for termination of membership contained in Rule 14 hereafter, the Council shall have the right to terminate any person's membership.

#### 6. RESIGNATION

Any member wishing to resign shall send written notice to that effect to the Secretary.

#### 7. OFFICERS

The Officers of the Society shall consist of the President, Chairman of the Council, Secretary and Treasurer. In the event of any of the aforesaid offices becoming vacant, the Council may fill such vacancy, and the Officer thus appointed shall serve until the ensuing AGM.

#### 8. GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIETY

The management of the affairs of the Society shall be entrusted to a Council consisting of the aforesaid Officers, and not more than eight members of the Society.

Council will appoint Council Members to undertake the roles of Membership Secretary, Field Officer, Newsletter Editor and IT Consultant, or to other roles as determined by Council.

In view of the specialist skills and services required to meet the IT needs of the Society, the IT Consultant may be authorised by Council to utilise third-party specialists and service providers as appropriate and subject to meeting data protection requirements.

The Council shall have power to co-opt eligible members of the Society. The Council shall have full power to settle disputes arising out of the management of the Society. The Secretary shall call a Council Meeting at the request of three Council Members.

The Chairman of Council, or a nominated Council Member shall take the Chair at Society meetings, including the Annual General Meeting.

If such circumstances arise whereby one of the Officer's posts cannot be filled, the Council shall have power to elect any member of Council to hold one extra post only. No member of Council may hold more than two posts at any one time.

#### 9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting shall be held before 30th April each year, when the Council shall present its annual report for the preceding year.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting is served by the distribution of the programme to members of the Society who have paid their subscription for the year in which the Annual General Meeting is held.

#### 10. VOTING

If at any meeting of the Society a vote is required, by a show of hands, then the following shall apply:

Single member                      one vote

Joint eligible members      one vote each

#### 11. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. The Officers and other Members of the Council shall be elected annually. Any Officer or other member of the Council, wishing to stand for re-election shall be eligible for such re-election without nomination. Subject to the provisions of Rule 11 (2) hereafter, any member of the Society may submit a nomination of a candidate for election to the Council at an Annual General Meeting, such nomination be received by the Secretary at least fourteen days before the Annual General Meeting. In the event of the number of candidates for any office exceeding the number of vacancies, a vote shall be held at the Annual General Meeting. Such vote, or votes, will be by a show of hands.

2. No Officer or Member of the Council (as defined by Rule 8) shall serve for a period longer than five consecutive years, such period to be calculated from the AGM at which such Officer or Member of the Council was elected, or from such date on which election may have occurred under the provisions of Rule 12. PROVIDED that

a. Any Officer or Member of the Council who retires under this rule shall be eligible for re-election after 2 years have elapsed.

b. If a Member of the Council is elected as an Officer during his or her five year term as previously defined, then the calculation of the five year term shall be made from the date of such election.

c. The Council retains the right to waive the provisions of the sub-clause, so as to enable such Officer or member of the Council to continue as Officer or member of the Council beyond the five year period if in the Council's opinion it would be in the best interests of the Society to continue such service.

12. COUNCIL VACANCIES

In the event of a vacancy occurring on the Council, the Council may appoint a member of the Society to serve on the Council until the following Annual General Meeting.

13. COMMITTEES

The Council is empowered to set up committees, and to appoint any member of the Society to serve thereon.

14. SUBSCRIPTIONS

All subscriptions shall be reviewed annually by the Council and shall be payable on 1st January. Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if not renewed before the Annual General Meeting. If an application for membership is received after 1st October in any year that application shall be treated as an application for membership for the ensuing year, but the applicant shall be entitled to the privileges of membership for the current year.

Subscriptions, or any part thereof, cannot be repaid.

15. VISITORS

Visitors to indoor meetings shall be required to pay a fee, the amount of such fee to be determined from time to time by the Council.

16. ACCIDENTS

The Society cannot accept any responsibility for any loss, injury or inconvenience in consequence of any member or visitor (of any category as defined in these rules) incurring such loss, injury or inconvenience as a result of participation by such member or visitor in the Society's activities, both indoor and outdoor. The Society arranges such activities as an agent for the member.

17. ALTERATIONS TO RULES

Any proposed alterations to these rules must be sent to the Secretary for consideration by the Council. If such alteration or alterations are agreed by the Council they shall be submitted to the next AGM for the consideration of those attending.

18. DISSOLUTION

SDOS is not a charity and therefore is not covered by the Charity Act and its Rules.

In the event of the dissolution of the SDOS the Council shall arrange to dispose of the assets of the Society to an organisation within the county of Sussex whose aims are to promote the study and protection of birds.