

Chairperson

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Hon. Treasurer

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Hon. Secretary

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Constitution of the Somerset Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

1 This Guild shall be called the Somerset Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers

2 The objects of the Guild shall be:

- 2.1 The preservation and improvement of craftsmanship in hand weaving, spinning and dyeing for the benefit of the public, and
- 2.2 The promotion of public education in such craftsmanship

In furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise, the Guild shall have the following powers:

- 2.3 To organise and promote or join in organising and promoting meetings, conferences and other similar activities
- 2.4 To co-operate and collaborate with voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in similar charitable fields and to exchange information and advice
- 2.5 To raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise provided that the Guild shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable objects
- 2.6 To do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the Guild's objects

3 Any person interested in actively furthering the purposes of the Guild and contributing an annual subscription shall be a Member of the Guild and shall be entitled to vote at all general meetings of the Guild so long as their current subscription has been paid but a person whose subscription is more than two years in arrears shall cease to be a member. The level of subscription shall be set at the Annual General Meeting

4 The Guild shall conduct its affairs by means of a Central Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting by paper ballot. The Central Committee shall be a minimum of six members, one third retiring each year and being available for re-election. Five members shall be considered to be a quorum

The Officers shall be Chairperson, Hon. Treasurer and Hon. Secretary and shall be elected annually by the members of the Annual General Meeting. They shall be eligible for re-election

At any meeting, in the event of equal voting, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote

The Central Committee shall have powers to co-opt a member to fill a casual vacancy until the Annual General Meeting

The Committee shall be free to appoint other officers as deemed advantageous to the working of the Guild

5 Powers shall be taken to appoint sub-committees for approved projects. All acts and proceedings of such sub-committees shall be reported back to the Central Committee as soon as possible. Non-members may be co-opted to such committees with the consent of the Central Committee but shall not have the power to vote. The Guild Officers shall be ex-officio members of any sub-committee

No expenditure may be undertaken by the sub-committee without the written consent of the Central Committee

6 The Accounts of the Guild shall be approved by an independent bookkeeper once a year and the Balance Sheet and Financial Statement presented to members at the Annual General Meeting. The Financial Statement and Report shall be published at the discretion of the Central Committee

7 The Central Committee shall meet not less than once a quarter

Fourteen days before the Annual General meeting, or before a General Meeting, a written notice shall be sent out to every member of such a meeting stating the business on the Agenda, and only the business thus stated shall be allowed at the Meeting, for discussion. Members wishing to move a resolution at the Annual General meeting shall do so in writing not less than four weeks before the date of the meeting

At the Annual General Meeting of the Guild each member will have one vote and the Chairperson the casting vote

Extraordinary Meetings shall be called on the written request of ten members stating the object of the Meeting

- 8 The Central Committee, duly elected, shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of the Constitution, and its decision shall be final

Alteration to this constitution shall receive the assent of two thirds of the members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting. A resolution for alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Guild at least 21 days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be brought forward. At least fourteen days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the membership and must include notice of the alteration proposed. Provided that no alteration shall be made to clause 2 (object), clause 14 (dissolution) or this clause, until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alteration shall be made which would have the effect of causing the Guild to cease to be a charity in law

- 9 It shall be the duty of the Central Committee, if they deem it advisable, to suspend any Member from Membership of the Guild or from any office of the Guild until the next Annual General Meeting. At such Meeting the suspended Guild member shall offer his or her defence in writing, and, if two thirds of the membership present vote for his or her expulsion, they shall be deemed to have ceased from Membership
- 10 No Guild member may, in the name of the Guild, carry on any trade activity
- 11 Members shall not publish anything in the name of the Guild without the consent of the Central Committee
- 12 Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by members or officers in carrying out the work of the Guild may be paid at the discretion of the Central Committee
- 13 Area Branches of the Guild may be formed at the discretion of the Central Committee. Officers of the Guild shall be ex-officio members of all Branch Committees
- 14 The Guild may be dissolved by a Resolution passed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting at a Special General Meeting convened for the purpose, of which 21 days notice shall have been given to the members. Such Resolution may give instruction for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of the Guild, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or redistributed among the members of the Guild but shall be given to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to some or all of the objects of the Guild, as the Guild may, with the approval of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction, determine

Somerset Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers



Founded
1949

Constitution