TOWTON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY

Registered Charity Number: 1043080

CONSTITUTION

1. The name of the Society is the TOWTON BATTLEFIELD SOCIETY (the Society)

2. The objects of the Society are:

    a) To promote the permanent preservation as a site of historic interest for the benefit of the public generally the site known specifically as Towton Battlefield in the region of the Plain of York, North Yorkshire (the Site).
    b) To promote the education of the public generally in medieval history particularly in relation to the Battle of Towton.
    c) To promote for public benefit research into medieval history with particular reference to the Battle of Towton and to publish the useful results of such research.

3. In furtherance of the objects of the Society:
    a. the Society shall have power to do all such lawful acts or things as are incidental to the attainments of the objects of the Society, and so far as may be necessary or desirable to do such acts or things in collaboration with any other person, body, institution, authority or otherwise.
    b. the Society shall have the power generally to protect, preserve and promote the character and amenities of the Site, and for the attainment of the foregoing to consider, and if necessary and desirable, to promote, assist or oppose proposals for the use or development of the Site.

MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTIONS

4.
    4.1. Membership of the Society shall be open to any person or organisation interested in the objects of the Society.
    4.2. Any person who, or organisation which, desires to become a member of the Society shall lodge an application form with the Membership Secretary in such form as the Committee may prescribe.

5.
    5.1. Subject to the provisions of this Clause the Committee shall determine the different categories of members.
    5.2. There shall be Junior membership open to persons up to the age of eighteen years. Junior members shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings or to become officers of the Society or members of the Committee.
    5.3. There shall be Family membership open to families. One vote only may be cast at General Meetings for each family membership.
    5.4. Organisations whose objects are similar to or coincide with the objects of the Society may be admitted to membership. Each organisation which is a member shall have one vote only at General Meetings. Each organisation shall by notice in writing to the Secretary, appoint one individual as its representative to attend and vote at General Meetings.

6. The annual subscription shall be such amount as the Committee may decide. Different amounts may be fixed for different categories of members.

7. The Society shall have power to accept donations and gifts for any purpose not inconsistent with its objects and to make appeals for funds to be used in connection with any such objects.

8. Any member may terminate that member's membership at any time by notice in writing to the Membership Secretary.

9.
    9.1. The Committee may on a resolution passed by three-quarters of the members thereof discontinue the membership of any member at the absolute discretion of the Committee.
    9.2. Membership will automatically be suspended at the end of the month following the despatch of membership reminder.

COMMITTEE

10.

10.1. The management of the Committee shall be vested in a Committee to be called the Coeur Committee (the Committee) consisting of the officers of the Society who shall be the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and any other officer as shall be determined by the committee and not more than twelve other members all of whom shall be members of the Society.

10.2. The Committee may co-opt additional members to the Committee being members of the Society up to four in number.

10.3. The Committee shall meet as often as may be necessary to transact business. Meetings may be convened by the Chairman or on the request of not less than three members of the Committee in writing to the Secretary. The Secretary shall give not less than seven days notice in writing of any meeting of the Committee but in an emergency the Chairman may decide that a shorter period of notice be given.

10.4. Four members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum.

TRUSTEES

11.

11.1. The officers of the Committee shall be the Trustees.

11.2. The function of the Trustees shall be:

a. to ensure that the Society is managed in accordance with this Constitution

b. to hold any property belonging to the Society (other than money)

11.3. The Trustees shall meet as often as necessary.

11.4. The Trustees shall be entitled to have access to all the books and records of the Society and to receive copies of the Minutes of meetings of the Committee.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

12.

12.1. The Society shall at its first inaugural meeting and at every Annual General Meeting elect a Chairman, a Treasurer and a Secretary and not more than six other members to constitute a Committee for the ensuing year and shall elect the Trustees.

12.2. The Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and the members of the Committee together with the Trustees shall take office at the end of the meeting at which they are elected and shall hold office until the end of the next annual general meeting.

12.3. The Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary and all members of the Committee may be re-elected for a further term of office.

12.4. The Chairman shall take the chair of the meeting of the Committee and shall also be the Chairman at general meetings. In the absence of the Chairman, the Committee or the General Meeting (as the case may be) shall elect a person to take the Chair.

FINANCE

13.

13.1. The Treasurer shall keep accounts of all monies received and expended on account of the Society and shall present such accounts at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

13.2. A bank account or accounts shall be opened on behalf of the Society and all cheques drawn upon such account shall require the signature of at least two members of the Committee.

14. The financial year of the Society shall run from February 1st to January 31st the following year.

GENERAL

15.
- 15.1. A general meeting of members shall be convened by the Secretary as soon as possible after the year end and in any case within three months for the purpose of receiving the Annual Report and balance sheet, for electing any Honorary Officers, the Officers and Committee for the ensuing year and to consider any other business as necessary.
- 15.2. Fourteen days notice of such a meeting shall be sent to all members.
- 15.3. Fifteen members present in person shall constitute a quorum at the annual general meeting.
- 15.4. In the event of a quorum not being present the meeting shall be adjourned to such place, date and time within the ensuing fourteen days as the Chairman shall decide and the members present at such adjourned meeting shall constitute a quorum

16.
- 16.1. An extraordinary general meeting may be convened at any time by a resolution of the Committee or the Trustees or on the requisition of at least ten members of the Society, to the Secretary.
- 16.2. A meeting held on such requisition shall be held within twenty one days of the receipt of such a requisition by the Secretary and the Secretary shall give to the members of the Society fourteen days notice of such meeting.
- 16.3. The quorum shall be the same as a quorum at the annual general meeting.

17. The first Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary and twelve other Committee members together with the Trustees shall be elected at the inaugural general meeting held to adopt this constitution. The quorum shall be the same as the quorum of the Annual General Meeting.

18.
- 18.1. The Society in a General Meeting may elect an Honorary President and up to four Honorary Vice Presidents. They shall be subject to re-election at each subsequent Annual General Meeting.
- 18.2. The Committee may appoint Patrons of the Society.

19. All matters not herein provided for and not involving an amendment to this Constitution may dealt with by the Committee.

AMENDMENTS AND DISSOLUTION

20.
- 20.1. The Constitution may be altered at an Annual or Extraordinary General meeting of the Society by a resolution passed at a quorate meeting by two thirds of the members present and voting thereat.The resolution for the alteration of the Constitution must be received by the Secretary of the Society at least twenty one days before the meeting at which it is to be proposed. At least fourteen days notice of such a meeting must be given by the Secretary to the Society and must include notice of the alteration proposed provided that no alteration to Clause 2 (Objects), Clause 21 (Dissolution) or this clause shall take effect 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 Society to cease to be a charity in law.
- 20.2. The Committee should send promptly to the Commissioners a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

21. If the Committee decides it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Society it shall call a meeting of all members of the Society, of which not less than twenty one days notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting the Committee shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the Society. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution having objects similar to the objects of the Society as the member of the Society may determine, or failing that, shall be applied to some other charitable purpose. A copy of the Statement of Accounts or account and statement for the final accounting period of the Society must be sent to the Charity Commissioners.