

The Constitution of the Village Hall, Osmotherley.
An Extract from the First Schedule of the Conveyance of the Property.

A) The Object.

The hall is for the use of the inhabitants of Osmotherley and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex or of political, religious or other opinions, and in particular for use for meetings, lectures, classes and for other forms of recreation and leisure-time occupation and for, or with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants; this is called the area of benefit and covers the parish boundaries of Ellerbeck, Osmotherley, Snilesworth and Thimbleby.

B) The Charity.

The Charity, created on the conveyance of the property from the York Diocesan Board of Finance for £575 on the 6th September 1959, shall be administered under the title of Osmotherley Village Hall, by a committee of management.

C) Trustees.

The Osmotherley Parish Council shall be the custodian trustee of the Charity, in the manner of a Public Trustee and Managing Trustees.
(Public Trustee Act 1906 Sect.4 (2))

D) The Committee of Management. - Membership

It shall consist of

- 1) Representative members of organisations
- 2) Six members elected at A.G.M.
- 3) Two co-opted members, if desired

The appointments will be from one A.G.M. to the next A.G.M.

- 1) Representative members may be appointed by any organisation in the area of benefit, which has a membership of 12 or more, and has held an A.G.M and a minimum of two other meetings in 12 months. A certificate of this condition must be produced with the name of the nominee representative. The Committee secretary shall inform each organisation interested in representation, at least 30 days before an A.G.M., asking for the name of a nominee. A casual vacancy may be filled by notification to the Committee secretary, for the unexpired portion of period of appointment.
- 2) For elected and co-opted members, casual vacancies can be filled by the Committee.
- 3) Any member can be re-appointed or re-elected or resign.
- 4) All members must sign the minute book at the first meeting they attend, declaring they accept and are willing to act in accordance with the constitution.
- 5) If any member does not attend a meeting over 4 consecutive meetings, the Committee secretary may ask the organisation concerned, or the elected or co-opted member, to state the circumstances. The Committee may then ask for a resignation.
- 6) The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any failure to appoint, or any defect in the appointment, election or qualifications of any member, nor shall the failure by an organisation to nominate a representative, in time for the A.G.M. debar the acceptance of a nominee at a later date.
- 7) Any member may send a personal representative to any meeting he or she cannot attend, who can take full part in the meeting, except vote.
- 8) No members may take or hold, any interest in the property of the Charity except as a trustee, without the consent of the Department of Education and Science.

- 9) No member shall receive remuneration or supply work or goods to the Charity without a majority resolution of 75% of the total number of the Committee. Such resolutions must be re-voted after each A.G.M.
- 10) Any member who is adjudged bankrupt and who makes a composition or arrangement with his creditors or who is incapacitated from acting, should cease to be a member.

E) Committee of Management. ó Meetings

- 1) An annual general meeting shall be held in October or as soon as possible afterwards. Public notices of such shall be displayed at least 7 days before the date fixed; all inhabitants in the area of benefit can attend, and those above 18 years of age are entitled to vote. Business shall include a secretary's report, a treasurer's report and balance sheet, a formal presentation of nominated representatives, an election for other members and an item "any other business".
- 2) At least two ordinary meetings shall be held each year.
- 3) A special meeting may be called at anytime, by the Chairman or any two members, upon seven days notice being given to members concerning the matter to be discussed.
- 4) A quorum of a meeting shall be one third of the total committee.
- 5) The business of all meetings shall be determined by the majority voting of those present.

F) Committee of Management. ó Officers

- 1) Each officer of the Committee, (chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer) will remain in office till the first meeting after the A.G.M., whether they have been re-appointed or re-elected at the A.G.M. or not. At the first committee meeting after the A.G.M. the Committee will elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. Each will retire in this order while the appointment is being voted, and the secretary will take the chair during the chairman's election.
- 2) The Committee may appoint other officers as required or sub-committees and elect co-opted members.
- 3) An auditor must be appointed; a president and vice-presidents can be nominated.
- 4) Should the chairman or vice-chairman not be present at a meeting, the members will elect one of their members to preside, who will sign the minute-book.
- 5) The chairman shall have the casting vote or a second vote in the event of equality on any proposal.
- 6) The secretary shall keep a minute book covering ordinary meetings and the annual general meeting.
- 7) The treasurer shall keep accounts and have the accounts and balance sheet audited and presented at each A.G.M. with a copy for the Parish Council and (on demand) for the Department of Education and Science.
- 8) The appointment of a paid secretary, treasurer or auditor shall be allowed, provided the Committee, on a 75% majority vote of the whole Committee, draw up an appropriate contract.

G) Finance and Maintenance

- 1) The Committee will act as a commercial undertaking to finance its purpose of maintaining and improving its property, by any means it considers suitable.
- 2) The income must firstly be devoted to:
 - (a) An insurance policy against fire, burglary and public liability and the payment of such premiums.
 - (b) Rates and taxes.
- 3) Other income may be devoted to any expenses or interests of the Charity, one of which must be a separate maintenance fund.
- 4) Surplus money, not needed for working purposes, should be invested.
- 5) The Committee shall keep their property in good repair and establish a sufficient maintenance fund to meet a major overhaul of decorations every three years, or for any emergency.

- 6) The Committee may, with the consent of the Department of Education and Science, from time to time, by mortgage or otherwise, obtain such advances on the security of the property or any part thereof, as may be required for maintaining, extending or improving the property.
- 7) If the Committee decides at any time that, because of expense or otherwise, it is necessary or advisable to discontinue the use of the property, the Committee will call a public meeting with 14 days notice, by posters and advertisements in a local paper, stating the reason. If the majority voting at the public meeting (limited to persons over 18 years old in the area of benefit) supports the Committee, the Committee may let or sell the property, with the consent of the Department of Education and Science. All money arising from such sale, (after payment of any liabilities) shall be available either to purchase other property to be used for similar objects of the Charity or towards such other charitable purposes or objects for the benefit of the inhabitants of the area, provided consent of the Department of Education and Science is obtained. Meanwhile such moneys as become available shall be invested in the name of the Official Custodian for Charities, together with any income arising therefrom.

H) General

- 1) Within the limits of this constitution, the Committee may make or alter their rules and regulations for the conduct of their business, their meetings and their financial arrangements.
- 2) Any question of interpretation of this constitution or of the validity of any acts done or about to be done, must be checked against the original Conveyance and Schedules thereto, from which this constitution is an extract, and thereafter determined by the Department of Education and Science, who will hold a copy of this document and be informed from time to time of any significant amendments.
- 3) The following list of organizations are designated as eligible to nominate representatives to the committee of managements as on 1st November 1964, and is subject to alteration according to the rules of D(1) above.

Osmotherley Women's Institute
Osmotherley British Legion, Mens Section
Osmotherley British Legion, Womens Section
Osmotherley Old Tyme Dancing Club
Osmotherley Parochial Church Council
Osmotherley Parish Council
Osmotherley Band
Osmotherley Over Sixty Club

Note: This is a scan and upgrade of an original poor copy done 2006