



Constitution of Cuimhneachain nan Gaisgeach

Formally adopted at the first Annual General Meeting held on 24th September 1991.

1. Name:

The Organisation will be known as 'Cuimhneachain nan Gaisgeach'.

2. Objects:

The charitable objects for which Cuimhneachain Nan Gaisgeach is established are:

[a] To promote any charitable purpose for the benefit of the inhabitants of the Western Isles and environs, and in particular the advancement of education relating to the historical and cultural tradition associated with crofting, its heroes, and their land.

[b] To establish, provide, secure and manage facilities, monuments, memorials and interpretative centres in the interests of education, social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants.

[c] To promote cooperation in the achievement of the above purposes within the Western Isles and environs and to do all things as will properly attain the above purposes.

Cuimhneachain Nan Gaisgeach, hereinafter referred to as The Organisation, will be non-party in politics and non-sectarian in religion.

3. Membership:

The Organisation shall consist of:

[a] Individual and Junior Members who shall be eighteen years and over, resident in the Western Isles.

[b] Individual Associate Members resident outwith the Western Isles.

[c] Representatives of voluntary organisations and other bodies in the Western Isles and environs where cooperation will further the objects of The Organisation.

[d] Representatives of local authorities, government departments and other statutory bodies where cooperation will further the above objects.

[e] Honorary Officers as appointed by paragraph seven.

[f] Corporate Associate Members from business, commerce, colleges or universities, trusts and others who support the above objects and whose cooperation will further the said objects.

[g] Individual or Corporate Associate Members may be appointed as assessors or advisors to The Organisation or its executive but shall have no voting rights.

4. Subscriptions:

Members and Associate Members shall pay such annual subscription as may be from time to time determined by a Special or Annual General Meeting or as delegated to an Executive Committee. Subscriptions may be varied from class to class of Members indicated in paragraph 3(a) to 3(g).

5. Resignation of Membership:

Any Member who wishes to resign membership should notify The Organisation and shall thereupon cease to be a Member.

6. Meetings of the Organisation:

[a] The first Members of The Organisation will be representatives of voluntary organisations, other bodies and Individual Members listed in the appendix and elected to the Executive

Committee, and as Honorary Officials, at the inaugural Meeting of The Organisation. Such Members and Honorary Officers shall hold office until the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of The Organisation next after their appointment. The Honorary Officials shall be ex-officio Members of the Executive Committee.

[b] There will be an Annual General Meeting of The Organisation to be convened by the Executive Committee each year, not more than two months after the end of the Financial Year have been received. The first A.G.M. will be convened not later than eighteen months after the inaugural Meeting of The Organisation, and annually thereafter.

[c] At the first and subsequent Annual General Meetings the following business will be transacted:

[i] The appointment of a Convenor, one or more Vice-Convenors and such other Honorary Officers as The Organisation may from time to time determine.

[ii] The election of the Executive Committee.

[iii] The appointment of qualified auditors.

[iv] The appointment of Trustees to any Trust that The Organisation may have an interest in.

[v] The consideration of reports and audited accounts.

[d] At least 28 clear days' notice shall be given in writing by the Secretary to Members of the Annual General Meeting and 14 clear days notice of a Special General Meeting. A Special Meeting may be called any time by the Executive Committee or on the written demand by ten Members, but not Associate Members, of The Organisation.

7. Executive Committee:

[a] There shall be an Executive Committee consisting of up ten Members of The Organisation, together with the Honorary Officers. Chairmen of Special or Standing Committees and any Trustees appointed shall become ex-officio Members of the Executive pro tem.

[b] The Convenor may not hold office for more than 3 consecutive years but will be eligible for re-election after the lapse of one year.

[c] The Executive shall be responsible for carrying out the policy of The Organisation, for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of The Organisation.

[d] The Executive shall hold a minimum of five meetings per year with seven days notice of each meeting being given.

[e] Any casual vacancy in the Executive Committee may be filled by the Executive Committee and any person appointed to such a vacancy shall hold office until the conclusion of the next A.G.M. of The Organisation and shall be eligible for re-election.

[f] The Executive will appoint a Secretary and Treasurer and any such Officers as may be required to carry out its business.

[g] A Quorum shall consist of a third of the Executive Committee but shall not be less than three Members of the Committee.

[h] Any Member who fails to attend three successive meetings, without giving a satisfactory reason for his absence, may be removed from Membership of the Committee, by a motion put to the Executive Committee and which is passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.

In the absence of Chairman or Vice-Chairman at meeting members present shall, before any other business is transacted, choose one of their number to preside at the meeting.

All matters, unless and otherwise stated, shall be decided by a majority of those present and entitled to vote, each Member of the Committee shall have one vote. In the case of equality of votes the Chairman shall have a deliberative vote as well as an additional casting vote.

8. Finance Committee, Trusts, Special and Standing Committees:

The Executive Committee may appoint a Finance Committee from their own Members and such other Special or Standing Committees or Trusts as may be deemed necessary, and will determine their terms of reference, powers, duration and composition. Such Special and Standing Committees or Trusts may as the Executive Committee approve co-opt additional Members up to 1/3rd of their appointed Membership.

9. Income and Property:

[a] The Organisation shall have power to raise money by means of affiliation fees from participating Authorities and Organisations, subscriptions from individuals, donations or legacies, grant in aid, loans and other sources.

[b] The income of The Organisation from whatever source derived shall be applied solely towards the promotion of the purposes of The Organisation as set forth in this Constitution and no portion shall be paid or transferred by the way of dividend, bonus or profit to any Member of The Organisation. Provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper remuneration to any Officer or servant of The Organisation in return for any services requested by the and with reference to The Organisation in return for any services requested by and with reference to The Organisation, or the repayment of out-of-pocket expenses; such Members shall have no voting rights in relation to these matters. No Member of the governing body shall be appointed to any salaried office of The Organisation or to any Office of The Organisation paid by fees and no remuneration or other benefit in money or monies worth shall be given by The Organisation to any Member of such a governing body, except reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.

[c] Authorisation for signing cheques, Bank Accounts, Mandates, would be by any two out of any three Office Bearers as authorised to act by an Executive Committee.

10. Financial Year:

The Organisation year shall run from 1st April to 31st March each year. The accounts of The Organisation shall be audited by qualified auditors.

11. Dissolution:

The Organisation may at any time be dissolved by a resolution passed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at a meeting of The Organisation of which at least 28 clear days notice shall have been sent to all full Members of The Organisation. Such a resolution may give instructions for the disposal of any assets held by or in the name of The Organisation, provided that if any property remains after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, such property shall not be paid to or distributed among Members of The Organisation but will be transferred to such other charitable institution having objects similar to some or all of the objects of The Organisation, as The Organisation may, determine.

12. Alterations to Constitution:

Alterations to the Constitution shall receive the assent of not less than two-thirds of the Members of The Organisation present and voting at a meeting or by a two-thirds majority of a postal ballot. A resolution for the alteration of the Constitution shall be lodged in writing with the Secretary of The Organisation at least forty days before the meeting at which the resolution is to be considered. At least 28 clear days notice in writing of such a meeting shall be given by the Secretary to full Members and shall include notice of the alteration proposed.

[ends]

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