

# **Draft Constitution of the Kerry Archaeological & Historical Society**

## **(1) The Society:**

1.0 The Society shall be known as Cumann Seandálaíochta agus Staire Chiarraí - The Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society (KAHS).

1.1(a) The purpose of the Society shall be the study, collection, recording, and preservation of the history and antiquity of Kerry, including promoting the excavation of historical and antiquarian remains and the publication of the aforementioned research. To that end the Society shall have the discretion to organise lectures, discussions and outings or field trips from time-to-time to further such purpose of the Society. Non-members of the Society shall be entitled to attend a maximum of two events organised by the Society provided he/she has been invited by a member.

(b) The Society shall be indemnified in respect of all claims how-so-ever arising from the attendance of the said non-member at any event of the Society wherein that non-members attendance has breached the Constitution of the Society, and in particular the terms of Condition No. 3 in the Code of Behaviour in the annexed addendum.

1.2 The Society shall be non-political, non-sectarian and a non-profit entity.

1.3 Membership shall be open to all who subscribe to the aims and objectives of the Society subject to the provisions of Section 3.0 hereunder.

## **(2) Governance:**

2.0 The Society shall be governed by a Council consisting of an Executive President, six Vice-Presidents, an Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Honorary Organiser, Honorary Journal Editor, Honorary Magazine Editor and those surviving former Executive Presidents as set out in 2.3 (1) hereunder. Twelve other members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society subject to the provisions of sections 2.1 and 2.3 hereunder.

2.1 The twelve members of the Council elected at the Annual General Meeting shall include at least one member from each of the nine Baronies of Kerry.

2.2 The Executive President shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years following her/his election.

2.3 In the event of a vacancy arising on the Council at any time following the Annual General Meeting, the Council shall be empowered to fill the said vacancy by way of co-option. The position, thus filled, shall only have duration until the following Annual General Meeting.

2.3 (1) All surviving former Executive Presidents shall be deemed ex-officio members of the Council.

2.3 (2) Honorary members of the Society shall only be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

2.4 The Executive Council shall convene not less than six meetings of the Council during the year. A quorum consisting of nine Council members shall be required to hold any such meeting. The dates, times and locations of the Council meetings shall be decided by the Society President following consultation with Kerry Library Service as to availability of venues.

2.5 The meetings convened under section 2.4 shall be presided over by the Executive President, or in her/his absence, one of the six Vice-Presidents present or in the absence of said members, a member of the Council present at the meeting.

2.6 An agenda for each Council meeting shall be furnished to each member of the Council in advance of a notified meeting. The agenda for all such meetings shall be agreed between the Executive President and the Honorary Secretary.

2.7 Members of the Council who fail to attend three consecutive meetings without reasonable explanation for such absence shall be deemed to be no longer members of the Council.

2.8 An Annual General Meeting of the Society shall be held during the month of January each year. This meeting shall receive reports from the Council and a statement of accounts from the Honorary Treasurer in respect of the previous year. Election of the incoming Council shall also take place in accordance with section 2.0 above. Voting at the Annual General Meeting shall either be by a show of hands or by secret ballot as deemed appropriate by the President.

2.9 An Auditor for the Society shall be appointed at the Annual General meeting. Bankers for the Society shall be appointed by the Council.

### **(3) Membership/Finance:**

3.0 Applications for membership shall be made to the Honorary Secretary accompanied by the annual membership fee as determined at the Annual General Meeting. The Council shall have discretion not to ratify any such application.

3.1 Members of the Society as prescribed in Section 3.0 shall be entitled to receive a copy of the Journal (*Journal of the Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society*) and the Society Magazine (*The Kerry Magazine*) free of charge. Any member whose subscription is in arrears one year after the date of the Annual General Meeting shall no longer be deemed to be a member of the Society and shall not be entitled to receive the Journal or the Magazine. The Council shall have discretion to re-instate such a lapsed member subject to such member paying the membership subscription.

#### **(4) General:**

4.0 The Society shall have the discretion to organise lectures, discussions and outings or field trips from time to time and shall foster close links with Kerry Library, Kerry County Museum, Archaeologists/Historians and all other parties with similar interest and objectives.

4.1 The Society has put in place a Code of Conduct and behaviour for all outings and field trips. Failure by any member of the Society to adhere to such code of conduct and behaviour may result in termination of membership of the Society.

4.2 Changes to the Constitution of the Society shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting and any change there-to shall require a majority of two-thirds of the members present.

#### **Code of Conduct:**

The Kerry Archaeological and Historical Society is committed to the safety and welfare of its members and considers it good practice to operate in accordance with the following guidelines, which have been approved by the Executive Council. It is expected that all outings/field trips are undertaken within these guidelines in order to ensure the safety of participating members and any invited guests.

The Executive Council asserts that no liability can attach to the Society and/or its members for the welfare of any individuals who disregard appropriate guidelines.

1 Each attendee must sign in with the designated KAHS Health and Safety Officer (HSO) at the start of all events.

2 The designated officer must be advised if any attendee intends to leave the event early.

3 Non-members may attend up to two events as guests of members.

4 Car-pooling amongst attendees is to be encouraged due to accessibility issues at some venues.

5 Clothing and footwear appropriate to the weather and conditions prevailing on the date of any event must be worn.

6 All participants have a duty of care for their own safety and fitness for the conditions.

7 Anyone whose behaviour endangers others or interferes with the presentation may be asked to leave.

8 Minors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will be held responsible for the care and behaviour of the minor.

9 Dogs or other pets are strictly forbidden on trips/outings with exception of guide dogs.

10 The designated KAHS HSO shall have the final say regarding adherence to these rules.