

# U3A Wonersh Constitution

**1 Title** - The organisation, originally known as "AIMS – The Six Villages" and latterly known as U3A Wonersh (AIMS), hereinafter referred to as the Group, shall be known as U3A Wonersh.

**2 Objects** - The charitable purposes of the U3A are the advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.

**3 Membership** - Any person who has paid the annual membership fee as determined by the Committee shall be deemed a member of the Group.

**4 Management** - The management of the Group shall be in the hands of a Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, hereinafter referred to as the Officers, together with no more than ten other members of the Group. The Chairman's term of office shall be restricted to a maximum of three consecutive years.

The Officers and committee members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Committee shall have power to co-opt a member with specialised knowledge as they think fit. The quorum for committee meetings shall be five, including at least one Officer.

**5 Finance** - The Group's financial year shall end on December 31st in every year. The annual subscription for members shall be such a sum as may from time to time be determined by the Committee. The first payment shall be due on election to membership and thereafter the subscription shall be payable annually on January 1st.

The Hon. Treasurer shall keep accurate and proper books of account so as to enable him to keep the Committee informed of the financial state of the Group, and to present to the Annual General Meeting a full and accurate account of the finances. An independent examiner shall, from year to year, be appointed at the Annual General Meeting to examine and certify the Treasurer's statements of account, such examiner being elected from among the membership of the Group or otherwise.

## **6 General Meeting**

6.1 The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as shall be determined by the Committee but not more than six months after the end of the financial year. A Special General Meeting may be called by the Committee at any time and may also be called upon written request made to the Hon. Secretary by at least twenty members. Twenty-eight days' notice shall be given of any General Meeting, whether Annual or Special. No charge of any kind shall be made in respect of attendance at any Annual General Meeting or Special Meeting of the Group. The quorum for General Meetings shall be thirty members.

6.2 Meetings may be held solely by electronic means in exceptional circumstances agreed by the trustees and in which participants may communicate with other participants. Where the Committee determines that a General Meeting is to be held by electronic means only, such determination shall be set out in the notice of General Meeting sent to members together with details of how a member may participate.

**7 Ordinary Meetings** - Ordinary meetings of the Group may be held at such places and at such times as the Committee may consider necessary for the fulfilment of the Objects, and notice of such meetings may be given by any means the Committee may deem expedient. Every member of the Group shall be entitled to attend any ordinary meeting, subject to the payment of such attendance fee as may from time to time be determined by the Committee. Potential members may attend one ordinary meeting prior to joining. Guests of members may attend ordinary meetings of the Group, subject to the payment by the accompanying member of the relevant fee for each guest. No business relating to the management of the Group shall be conducted at ordinary meetings.

**8 Control of Membership and Funds** - The Committee shall not permit the membership list of the Group to be used for any purpose of trade whatsoever. The Committee shall not permit the control of the Group's funds or any part of them to pass from their direct control, except in the discharge of debts and liabilities properly incurred.

**9 Alteration to the rules** - This Constitution, or any part of it, may be altered by a simple majority of members present and voting at any Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for that purpose. In this context, altered shall also mean added to, amended, replaced or deleted.

**10 Dissolution** - In the event of the Group, for any reason being unable to continue, or deciding to discontinue its activities, the Committee shall straightway use the funds to discharge all debts and liabilities, including any expenses necessarily incurred in so doing. Any monies remaining after the discharge of all debts shall be expended for the benefit of the membership at the date of the winding up in such a manner as the Committee at its sole discretion shall deem fit. If, subsequently, there are still surplus funds remaining they shall be transferred either to local U3A groups or to charities for purposes the same as, or similar to, the charity.

This revision adopted, with agreed amendments, at Annual General Meeting 10 February 1998.

Further amended 31 January 2002

Further amended 09 October 2003

Further amended 23 February 2006

Further amended 22 February 2007

Further amended 12 February 2008

Further amended 11 February 2014

Further amended 27 March 2017

Further amended 05 March 2018

Further amended 07 June 2021