

# **CONSERVATIVE FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **1. OBJECTS**

The role and purpose of the Council shall be:

(a) To promote knowledge and understanding of Foreign & Commonwealth affairs, to discuss international relations and to promote greater understanding and awareness of these matters within the Conservative Party.

(b) To maintain contact with Ambassadors and High Commissioners at the Court of St. James.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

(a) Conservative members and supporters who declare support for the objects of the Council shall be eligible for membership. Members of the Council shall be elected by the Council's General Committee.

(b) The General Committee shall also have the authority to elect persons who are not members or supporters of the Conservative Party to the Council.

(c) Members of the Council who are not either members or supporters of the Conservative Party shall not be entitled to be elected to office within the Council.

### **3. SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Subscriptions shall be payable annually on or before 1<sup>st</sup> January. Any member of the Council who has not paid the annual subscription by 1<sup>st</sup> April in any year shall cease to be a member of the Council.

(b) The rate of subscription shall be determined by the General Committee. Members in arrears of subscription shall not be entitled to attend, vote or stand for election at any Annual or Special General Meeting.

### **4. PATRONS**

Patrons of the Council may be proposed by the General Committee and shall subsequently be subject to approval of an Annual General Meeting.

### **5. OFFICERS**

#### **Honorary Officers**

The Honorary Officers of the Council shall be a President and up to three Vice Presidents. Honorary Officers shall be proposed by the Executive and shall subsequently be subject to annual approval at an Annual General Meeting. Honorary Officers may hold office for a maximum of five consecutive years. Following which an interval of at least twelve months must elapse before re-election takes place.

## **Executive Officers**

The Executive Officers of the Council shall consist of a Chairman, a Deputy Chairman, up to three Vice Chairmen, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary.

Executive Officers shall be proposed by members of the Council and shall subsequently be subject to annual election at an Annual General Meeting. Executive Officers, with the exception of the Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, may hold office for a maximum of five consecutive years. Following which an interval of at least twelve months must elapse before re-election takes place.

## **6. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Proposals for Executive Officers shall be made in writing to the Secretary at least 14 days before the date of the Annual General Meeting. All nominations shall require a proposer and seconder together with the consent of the nominee.

In the event of the number of nominees exceeding the number of vacancies, voting shall take place at the Annual General Meeting and shall be by ballot.

## **7. THE GENERAL COMMITTEE**

There shall be a General Committee which shall be the governing body of the Council and shall consist of the Honorary Officers, the Executive Officers and up to 5 Members of the Council who shall be elected in accordance with the same procedure as Executive Officers. These additional members of the Committee shall be entitled to attend and vote at General Committee Meetings.

The General Committee shall meet at least once a year, additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chairman. Fourteen days' notice in writing must be given to all members of the General Committee prior to all meetings of the General Committee. Five General Committee members, three of whom must be Executive Officers, shall form a quorum.

The General Committee shall have power to fill vacancies occurring amongst the Executive Officers by co-option. A person so appointed shall fill the office until the subsequent Annual General Meeting.

The General Committee may at any time cancel the membership of any Council member if in their opinion it is in the interests of the Council.

## **8. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Council shall be convened following a minimum of twenty eight days written notice to each member. In addition to any other published item on an agenda, the following business shall be dealt with;

(a) To receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Council for the previous financial year.

(b) To receive and adopt the report of the Chairman for the work of the Council for the previous year.

(c) To elect the Executive Officers and members of the General Committee

(d) To appoint Patrons of the Council as and when appropriate.

## **9. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS**

A Special General Meeting of the Council may be summoned at any time by the Chairman or by a majority of members of the General Committee. At least twenty eight days written notice to each member specifying the object of the meeting.

## **10. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

The General Committee shall have the power to interpret these rules in the event of there being any ambiguity or difference of opinion concerning the purpose or intention. The General Committee shall have the power to deal with any matter not provided for in these rules in relation to the governance of the Council.

An Annual or Special General Meeting shall have the power to amend or rescind any of the rules by a majority of not less than two thirds of those present and eligible to vote.

## **11. FUNDS**

(a) The General Committee shall be responsible for the funds and investments of the Council.

(b) The signatures of two Executive Officers shall be required for any payments made on behalf of the Council.

(c) The signatures of two Executive Officers shall be required for the withdrawal or transfer of any funds belonging to the Council.

(d) The consolidated Accounts and the funds of the Council shall be audited annually by Auditors appointed by the General Committee.

## **12. INTERPRETATION**

In these rules all words denoting the masculine gender shall be deemed to include the feminine.

## **13. DISSOLUTION**

The Council may be dissolved by a resolution approved at a Special General Meeting called for that purpose by a majority of three fourths of the members present and eligible to vote.

Upon dissolution any surplus funds following the payment of all outstanding debts and obligations shall be transferred to The Conservative Party.