

READING AND DISTRICT NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

RULES (2005 revision)

1. The **Society** shall be called “ The Reading and District Natural History Society” and shall have as its objectives:
 - i) the practical study of the natural history of the district;
 - ii) the promotion of a general interest in natural history;
 - iii) supporting conservation of the wild life and habitats of the district.

2. The **Society** shall consist of :
 - i) A President
 - ii) A Vice-president (normally the immediate past- president);
 - iii) One of more honorary secretaries;
 - iv) An Honorary Treasurer
 - v) An Honorary Editor;
 - vi) Honorary Recorders;
 - vii) Members;
 - viii) Honorary membersThe ordinary business of the Society shall be controlled by a committee.

3. The **Committee** shall consist of the President, who will serve for not more than two years, the Vice-president, Secretaries and Treasurer with up to nine other members. The Committee shall transact all business not referable to a General Meeting of the Society. Five shall form a quorum. Ordinary members of the Committee shall serve for three years and thereafter shall not be eligible for re-election for one year. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt not more than two members.

4. The **President** shall, if present, take the chair at all meetings.
5. The **Honorary Secretaries** shall attend to all the ordinary business of the Society.
6. The **Honorary Treasurer** shall attend to all money matters concerning the Society and shall present a statement of accounts at each Annual General Meeting.
7. The **Honorary Recorders** shall collect and compile local records annually for the Society.
8. The **Honorary Editor** shall be responsible for the annual production of The Reading Naturalist.
9. The **Annual General Meeting** shall be held in March of each year. The Honorary Secretary shall circulate or give notice of the agenda of the meeting not less than 14 days before the meeting.
10. The business of the **Annual General Meeting** shall be to:
 - i) Confirm the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and any other General Meetings held since the last Annual General Meeting;
 - ii) Receive the annual report of the Committee from the Secretary;
 - iii) Receive the audited accounts of the Society from the Treasurer;
 - iv) Review the subscription rates of the Society and agree them for the forthcoming year;
 - v) Elect an auditor;
 - vi) Elect the Officers and other ordinary Committee members of the Society;
 - vii) Agree any changes to the Rules of the Society. These must be agreed by two-thirds of those present. The quorum for this purpose must be fifteen;
 - viii) Elect any Honorary Members;
 - ix) Transact any other business received in writing by the Honorary Secretary at least seven days before the Annual General Meeting.

11. A **Special General Meeting** may be called at any time by the Honorary Secretary, or by written request of at least ten members addressed to the Honorary Secretary. At least seven clear days shall be given of any such meeting.
12. Members pay an **Annual Subscription**. The rate of subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting to apply to the current year. Payments are due on 1st October.
13. An **Honorary Member** pays no subscription and has all the privileges of an ordinary member.
14. The name of any member whose subscription is more than one year in **arrears** and who does not pay on a second application shall be removed from the list of members.
15. The Society shall hold **indoor meetings and field excursions**. Arrangements shall be made by the Committee and the appropriate Secretary shall give due notice to the members.
16. All **meetings** of the Society are open to Members and guests. Members are entitled to a free copy of each edition of The Reading Naturalist, but members paying a joint subscription share a copy.
17. The Society shall have the power to organise **open meetings** from time to time for the encouragement of interest in Natural History.
18. If at any time it can be shown that a Member has acted in a way detrimental to the objectives and aims of the Society the Committee shall have the power to **terminate that person's membership**.
19. If at any General Meeting of the Society, a resolution be passed calling for the **dissolution of the Society**, the Honorary Secretary shall immediately convene a Special general Meeting to be held not less than one month thereafter to discuss and vote on the resolution.
20. If, at that Special General Meeting, the resolution is carried by at least two-thirds of the Members present at the meeting, the Committee shall thereupon, or at such date as shall have been specified in the resolution, proceed to realise the assets of the Society and discharge all debts and liabilities of the Society.
21. After discharging all debts and liabilities amongst the Members of the Society, the remaining assets of the Society shall not be paid or distributed amongst the members of the Society but shall be given or transferred to some other voluntary organisation having objectives similar to those of the Society.