

DARTMOUTH AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE

Rules

1. Title

The DARTMOUTH AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF TRADE LTD. (known hereafter as DDCT).

2. The DDCT shall be non-political.

3. Objects.

Its objects shall be to promote, advance and protect the general commercial interests of Dartmouth and the surrounding district including Kingswear, Strete, Stoke Fleming, Blackawton, Dittisham and Halwell; and to discuss and promote measures to benefit the interests of its members in particular and the town in general. Where circumstances dictate, and within the objectives of the DDCT, the Officers shall have discretionary authority to negotiate on behalf of the members without prior consultation, and shall report at the next available meeting.

4. Membership

- (i) Any business, whether a sole trader, a partnership or a limited liability company, being carried on in Dartmouth or the surrounding district (as defined in clause 3. above) may become a member of the DDCT on payment of the annual subscription. The eligibility of any candidate shall be decided by the Committee.
- (ii) Each member may be represented by up to four nominees who shall be eligible to attend and speak at meetings, including the Annual General Meeting, and to serve on the Committee. However, only one representative of each member business shall be entitled to vote.
- (iii) Members no longer eligible for ordinary membership may be elected to honorary membership.
- (iv) Only the representatives or nominees of members are eligible to attend meetings of the Chamber. However, in exceptional circumstances guests may attend a meeting either at the invitation of or with the prior agreement of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Guests may only speak by invitation and have no right to vote.

5. Finance

- (i) Subscription: the annual subscription shall be decided each year by the Committee. The Committee reserves the right to exclude membership when the annual subscription is not paid by 31st August.
- (ii) Expenses payments: Settlement of accounts approved by the Committee to be agreed by the Treasurer and the Chairman and the Secretary.

6. Meetings

- (i) Meetings of the DDCT shall be held each month.
- (ii) The meeting in October shall be the Annual General Meeting at which a report on activities and an statement of accounts for the past year shall be submitted, and the annual election of officers and members of the Committee shall take place.

- (iii) A meeting of members of the DDCT shall be convened at any time on receipt of a requisition signed by ten members or at the discretion of the Chairman or Committee.

7. Officers and Committee

- (i) The officers shall comprise:
 - (a) The Chairman
 - (b) The Vice-Chairman
 - (c) The Secretary
 - (d) The Treasurer
 - (e) The Membership Secretaryall of whom shall be elected annually, with the sole exception of the Chairman who, for reasons of continuity, shall serve a two year term. No officer shall serve more than three consecutive terms in the same office, unless in the absence of other nominations for the post, it is necessary for the committee to co-opt that person.
- (ii) The Committee has the power to fill vacancies and may co-opt members to deal with the activities of DDCT.
- (iii) In the continued absence of a Committee member for six months, his or her place may, at the discretion of the Committee, be declared vacant.
- (iv) The Committee shall meet at least once a month.

8. Nomination of Officers

- (i) Nominations for officers must be made in writing, properly proposed and seconded, and must be delivered to the Secretary no later than 5.00pm on the Friday preceding the Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) Should more than one nomination be received for a post, a ballot of those members entitled to vote will be held at the AGM.
- (iii) Should only one nomination be received for a post, the nominee will be deemed duly elected.
- (iv) Should no nominations be received for a post, the Chairman will call for nominations from the floor at the AGM. Any such nominations must be properly proposed and seconded. Rules (ii) and (iii) above then come into operation.
- (v) Should no nominations be received for a post either prior to or at the AGM then but only then the Committee shall be entitled to co-opt members to fill any vacancies.
- (vi) Where more than one nomination has been received for a place on the committee, each nominee is entitled (but not compelled) to make a personal statement to the meeting. This statement should not exceed five minutes in length.

9. Voting

- (i) Each business represented within the Chamber is entitled to one vote.
- (ii) All votes will be by show of hands, unless ten members request that a vote be held by secret ballot, or the Chairman or Committee feel that a secret ballot is desirable.
- (iii) All votes will be counted by the Secretary and verified by one other committee member. The result of the ballot will be announced by the Secretary.

10. Notices

- (i) At least three days notice in writing shall be given of all meetings except in cases of emergency.
- (ii) Any member wishing to raise a matter at the AGM shall give notice in writing to the Secretary one month in advance.

11. Interpretation

Any question of interpretation of these Rules shall be decided by the Chairman.

12. Alterations

These Rules may be altered or rescinded or additional rules made at a general meeting of members and confirmed at a subsequent meeting. The notice convening the meeting shall specify the proposed alteration, rescission or addition.

Tuesday, 15 May 2007