GREAT MISSENDEN CHORAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION – OCTOBER 2024

1. **Title**
   The name of the Society shall be the Great Missenden Choral Society (hereinafter called 'the Society').

2. **Objects**
   The Objects of the Society shall be: -
   (a) To promote, improve, develop and maintain public education in the appreciation of the art and science of choral music in all its aspects by the presentation of public concerts and by such other ways as the Society through its Committee shall determine from time to time, and
   (b) For the general purposes of such charitable bodies or for such other purposes as shall be exclusively charitable as the Committee may from time to time decide.

3. **Powers**
   In furtherance of the Objects but not otherwise the Committee may exercise the following powers:
   (i) the power to raise funds and to invite contributions, provided that in raising funds the Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law.
   (ii) power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the Objects and maintain and equip for its use.
   (iii) power subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the property of the Society with repayment of the money so borrowed.
   (iv) power to employ staff (who shall not be members of the Committee) as are necessary for the proper pursuit of the Objects and to make all reasonable and necessary provisions for the payment of pensions and superannuation for staff and their dependants.
   (v) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
   (vi) power to establish or support any charitable trusts, associations and institutions formed for all or any of the Objects.
   (vii) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Committee may think fit.
   (viii) power to terminate the membership of any individual provided that the decision of the Committee (with the exception of (1) the individual concerned if a member of the Committee and (2) any member of the Committee making or connected with the complaint against the individual) is unanimous both as to the termination and as to there being a good reason for it, and provided

that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Committee, accompanied by a friend if desired, before a final decision is made.

(ix) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

4. Membership

Membership shall be available in three categories:
(i) Performing members (ii) Friends of the Society and (iii) Honorary Life Members

4.1 Performing membership of the Society shall be available to those who have satisfied the Conductor of their musical ability and have paid the subscription at the appropriate rate or rates as shall be determined by the Committee, all subscriptions being payable in advance annually or half-annually by mutual consent. Members who regularly attend rehearsals shall be expected to sing at the concert performance unless unforeseen circumstances so prevent.
4.2 Friends of the Society shall be those who are in sympathy with the declared Objects and who make an annual subscription not less than that agreed and notified by the Committee.
4.3 Honorary Life Members shall each be entitled to a maximum of two free reserved seats and concert programmes at the Society's concerts but shall not be entitled to any voting rights or to play any part in the management of the Society.

5. Officers and Committee

5.1 The management of the Society shall be the responsibility of a Committee consisting of four Officers and five Ordinary Members. The Officers shall be the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and Librarian, one of whom the Committee shall appoint as the National Federation of Music Societies (NFMS) representative. Any six Committee Members, one of whom must be the Chairperson or Secretary, shall constitute a quorum for meetings.
5.2 All Officers and Ordinary Members shall be elected by the Society's members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). All Committee members shall be eligible for re-election, together with any potential new Committee members, at the following AGM.
5.3 The Committee shall co-opt additional members to the Committee as and when deemed necessary for beneficial purpose(s).
5.4 The Committee may from time to time appoint a President of the Society but although entitled to attend any Committee meetings, shall have no right to vote thereat and shall play no part in the management of the Society.
5.5 The Committee may from time to time appoint up to a maximum of three Vice-Presidents who shall play no part in the management of the Society.
5.6 The Committee may also from time to time invite a person to become a Patron of the Society, but such person shall not be entitled to attend any Committee meetings and shall play no part in the management of the Society.

5.7 The Committee may from time to time appoint a Concert Day Manager who may or may not be a member of the Society and, although entitled to attend any Committee meetings, shall have no right to vote thereat.

6. Finance

6.1 The control of finance and all arrangements for the concerts and other events shall be in the hands of the Committee.

6.2 The financial year shall end on 31st May each year and accounts be prepared for approval as soon as practicable thereafter, and in any event no later than the end of August.

6.3 Banking accounts shall be in the name of the Society and cheques shall be signed by any two Officers of the Society.

6.4 The Society may receive donations, grants in aid and financial guarantees. Programmes for any or all of its concerts and other events shall be offered for sale to the public.

6.5 The income and property of the Society whencesoever derived shall be applied solely towards promoting the Objects of the Society as set forth above and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred either directly or indirectly to any member of the Society except in payment of legitimate expenses incurred on behalf of the Society.

6.6 In the event of the Society being wound up, any assets remaining upon the dissolution after payment of proper debts and liabilities shall be transferred to a charitable institution or institutions having similar objects to those of the Society.

7. General Meeting

7.1 Within eight weeks of the end of the financial year, the members shall be summoned to an Annual General Meeting for which at least fourteen days' notice in writing shall have been given.

7.2 An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by the Committee or at the written request of not less than 15 members of the Society. Fourteen days notice in writing shall be sent to all members.

7.3 At General Meetings an attendance of one-third of the members of the Society shall constitute a quorum but should such a meeting be adjourned due to there being no quorum, the members attending the subsequent meeting shall constitute a quorum whatever their number. At General Meetings a unanimous or majority vote shall prevail except as otherwise specifically provided herein.

8. Audited Accounts

The financial accounts shall be inspected independently and submitted to the members at the Annual General Meeting.

9. Amendments

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of the members present at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting provided that fourteen days notice of the proposed amendment has been sent to all members and provided that nothing therein contained shall authorise any amendment which shall have the effect of the Society ceasing to be a Charity.