

MIDLANDS ASTRONOMY CLUB (TULLAMORE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY) – CONSTITUTION & BYE-LAWS (JANUARY 2008)

CONSTITUTION

NAME

1. THE NAME OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE MIDLANDS ASTRONOMY CLUB ALSO KNOWN AS TULLAMORE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (CUMMAN RÉALTEOLÍOCHTA TULLACH MHÓR). THE PROPERTY OF TULLAMORE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY (CUMMAN RÉALTEOLÍOCHTA TULLACH MHÓR) BELONG TO MIDLANDS ASTRONOMY CLUB.

IA - KAS ADOPTION

THE COMMITTEE ACKNOWLEDGE THE PROPOSED ADOPTION OF KILDARE ASTRONOMY SOCIETY (KAS) BY THEIR COMMITTEE INTO MIDLANDS ASTRONOMY CLUB IN 2008. THIS MEANS THAT THE PROPERTY AND FUNDS OF KAS HAVE MERGED WITH TAS UNDER THE NEW NAME "MIDLANDS ASTRONOMY CLUB (MAC)".

OBJECTIVE

2. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE SOCIETY SHALL BE TO PROMOTE INTEREST IN ASTRONOMY AND ALLIED SUBJECTS.

GOVERNMENT

3. THE SOCIETY SHALL BE GOVERNED BY A COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF THE CHAIRPERSON, VICE-CHAIRPERSON, SECRETARY, AND TREASURER. THESE SHALL BE ELECTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. THERE SHALL ALSO BE FOUR TRUSTEES OF THE SOCIETY AS SHALL BE APPOINTED IN WRITING BY THE COMMITTEE. SUCH TRUSTEES SHALL CONTINUE IN OFFICE UNTIL THEIR DEATH, OR REMOVAL BY THE COMMITTEE. A NEW TRUSTEE IN THE PLACE OF SUCH TRUSTEE SHALL BE APPOINTED IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ORIGINAL TRUSTEE. ANY OTHER OFFICERS MAY BE APPOINTED BY THE COMMITTEE AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY.

4. A PERSON SHALL NOT HOLD THE OFFICE OF CHAIRPERSON FOR MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE YEARS.

5. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE, A PERSON SHALL HAVE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY FOR NOT LESS THAN TWO CALENDAR YEARS IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO HIS OR HER ELECTION OR CO-OPTION TO THE COMMITTEE. SHOULD AN INDIVIDUAL BE NOMINATED BUT HAS NOT BEEN A MEMBER WITHIN THOSE 2 YEARS, THE ACTING COMMITTEE AND SOCIETY MEMBERS PRESENT CAN VOTE IN FAVOUR BASED ON PROVEN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THAT INDIVIDUAL IN THE SOCIETY.

POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

6. THE COMMITTEE SHALL HAVE POWER TO TRANSACT ALL BUSINESS RELATING TO THE MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTION OF THE SOCIETY, AND IN PARTICULAR TO:

a. APPOINT SUB-COMMITTEES FOR SPECIAL PURPOSES, GRANTING SPECIAL POWERS AS IT DEEMS NECESSARY,

b. FILL IN ANY POSITION WHICH BECOMES VACANT DURING THE YEAR, FROM THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION & BYE-LAWS

7. THE COMMITTEE MAY INITIATE PROPOSALS FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS, OTHERWISE ANY PROPOSALS FOR THEIR AMENDMENTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING THROUGH THE SECRETARY AND MUST BE SUPPORTED BY AT LEAST SIX MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

8. ANY AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS SHALL BE MADE BY MEANS OF A RESOLUTION AT THE GENERAL MEETING CONVENED BY THE COMMITTEE.

BYE-LAWS

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

1. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP MAY BE CONFERRED BY THE COMMITTEE AT THEIR DISCRETION.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

2. MEMBERS SHALL PAY AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION AS FIXED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. DIFFERENT SUBSCRIPTION RATES MAY BE FIXED FOR PERSONS OF DIFFERENT AGES OR IN DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. THE SOCIETY'S YEAR SHALL COMMENCE ON THE FIRST DAY OF JANUARY, ON WHICH DAY ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS SHALL BECOME DUE. A PERSON WHOSE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS IN ARREARS SHALL NOT RECEIVE ANY PUBLICATION OF THE SOCIETY UNTIL THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS PAID, SAVE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE. MEMBERS WHO FAIL TO RENEW THEIR ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION ON OR BEFORE THE LAST DAY OF APRIL SHALL CEASE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS

4. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP MUST BE ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE, AND THE APPROPRIATE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION MUST BE LODGED WITH THE TREASURER BEFORE THE APPLICANT SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO THE SOCIETY.

5. EVERY NEWLY ELECTED MEMBER SHALL BE PROVIDED BY THE SECRETARY WITH A COPY OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

6. THE SOCIETY SHALL HOLD AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ITS MEMBERS. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SHALL BE HELD ANNUALLY ON A DATE AND AT A VENUE WHICH SHALL BE SET BY THE COMMITTEE.

THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS SHALL BE TRANSACTED:

a. CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT ON THE WORK OF THE SOCIETY SINCE THE LAST AGM.

b. CONSIDERATION FOR APPROVAL BY MEMBERS OF THE TREASURERS REPORT AND STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, DULY AUDITED, FOR THE SAME PERIOD.

c. ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

d. FIXING OF THE SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

7. NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING SHALL BE SENT TO MEMBERS AT LEAST SEVEN DAYS BEFORE THE DATE OF THE MEETING.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

8. A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING MAY BE CONVENED BY THE COMMITTEE AT ANY TIME.

9. THE COMMITTEE SHALL CONVENE A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING UPON THE WRITTEN APPLICATIONS OF ONE THIRD OF THE MEMBERS.

10. NOTICES CONVENING A SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING SHALL STATE THE REASON FOR THE MEETING, AND NO BUSINESS SHALL BE TRANSACTED AT THE MEETING OTHER THAN THAT STATED IN THE NOTICE.

PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS

11. THE QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS SHALL BE 10 PERSONS, OR ONE QUARTER OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY, WHICHEVER IS THE LESSER.

12. DECISIONS OF GENERAL MEETINGS SHALL BE BY SIMPLE MAJORITY. IN CASE OF A TIE, THE CHAIRPERSON MAY SUBJECT TO BYE-LAW 14, EXERCISE A CASTING VOTE IN ADDITION TO THAT PERSONS ORDINARY VOTE.

13. SUBJECT TO BYE-LAW 14, VOTING SHALL BE BY SHOW OF HANDS.

14. IN CASE OF ELECTIONS AND IN OTHER CASES WHERE THE CHAIRPERSON AT HIS DISCRETION SO RULES, VOTING SHALL BE BY SECRET BALLOT. IN THE CASE OF A TIE IN AN ELECTION BALLOT, THE ELECTION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY LOT.

CHAIRING OF MEETINGS

16-a. THE QUORUM FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS SHALL BE FOUR.

16-b. DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE SHALL BE BY SIMPLE MAJORITY AND IN THE CASE OF A TIE, THE CHAIRPERSON MAY EXERCISE A CASTING VOTE IN ADDITION TO THAT PERSONS ORDINARY VOTE.

16-d. SUBJECT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYE-LAWS AND ANY RELEVANT RESOLUTION OF THE SOCIETY ADOPTED AT THE AGM, THE COMMITTEE MAY REGULATE ITS OWN PROCEDURE.

16-e. ANY ITEM NOT SPECIFICALLY ON THE AGENDA MAY NOT BE ADOPTED UNLESS IT IS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

FUNDS

17. SUBJECT TO BYE-LAW 18, NO PAYMENTS OTHER THAN PAYMENTS IN RECOUPMENT OF EXPENSES INCURRED ON SOCIETY BUSINESS OR PAYMENTS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE INCURRING OF SUCH EXPENSES SHALL BE MADE TO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

18. NOTHING IN BYE-LAW 17 SHALL PRECLUDE THE PAYMENT OF HONORARIA TO MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY IN RESPECT OF SERVICES RENDERED.

19. NO MEMBER MAY SPEND SOCIETY FUNDS OR MAKE ANY FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY WHATSOEVER WITHOUT PRIOR COMMITTEE APPROVAL.

RECORDS

20. THE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS AND THE REGISTER OF MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY SHALL, SUBJECT TO ANY REASONABLE RESTRICTION AS TO THE TIME AND MANNER OF INSPECTION, BE OPEN TO THE INSPECTION OF MEMBERS.

POWERS OF OFFICERS

21. THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS SHALL BE AS DEFINED BY THE COMMITTEE FROM TIME TO TIME.

EXPULSIONS

22. ANY MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE OR OFFICER OF THE SOCIETY MAY BE REMOVED FROM OFFICE OR ANY MEMBER MAY BE EXPELLED FROM MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY BY A RESOLUTION TO THAT EFFECT PASSED AT A GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY.

AFFILIATIONS

23. THE SOCIETY MAY ACCEPT THE AFFILIATION OF OTHER ORGANISATIONS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COMMITTEE, ON TERMS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COMMITTEE.

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

24. ALL SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY OR EQUIPMENT OWNED BY THE SOCIETY MAY ONLY BE USED FOR ASTRONOMICAL OR RELATED SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES.

25. ALL PROPERTY OF THE SOCIETY (OTHER THAN CASH IN THE BANK) SHALL BE VESTED IN THE TRUSTEES TO BE DEALT WITH BY THEM AS THE COMMITTEE SHALL FROM TIME TO TIME DIRECT BY RESOLUTION (OF WHICH AN ENTRY IN THE MINUTES BOOK WILL BE CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE). ALL CASH IN THE BANK SHALL BE VESTED IN BY THE TREASURER.