

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE BRITAIN ZIMBABWE SOCIETY

1 A society is hereby established to be known as 'The Britain Zimbabwe Society' (hereinafter referred to as "the society").

2. The society shall be independent of any government and of any political party or other organisation devoted to sectarian or sectional purposes:

Provided that this paragraph shall not be constructed as prohibiting the society from affiliating to or entering into working arrangements with other bodies whose objects are similar to those of the Society,

3. The Society will encourage the formation of local and national branches and groups that support the aims and purposes of the Society

4. The aims and purposes of the Society shall be to increase mutual knowledge, understanding and respect between citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the citizens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to promote good relations between the aforesaid Republic of Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom by all or any of the following means, namely:

providing or recommending speakers or writers in the United Kingdom on subjects concerning the Republic of Zimbabwe;

welcoming visitors from the Republic of Zimbabwe, arranging interviews and providing contacts and other facilities;

making or fostering provision for the welfare of students from the Republic of Zimbabwe;

encouraging or promoting group visits to the Republic of Zimbabwe and

establishing and maintaining links with other organisations and associations in the UK, the Republic of Zimbabwe, or elsewhere which share the aims and purposes of the Society

and undertaking such other activities for the purpose of promoting the aims and purposes of the society as the Executive Committee shall from time to time direct.

5. In order to carry out its aims and purposes the society shall have power:

to receive donations, subscriptions, bequests or securities as grants or gifts, in money or in kind, for special or general purposes;

to receive the profits on all publications published by, in the name of, or on behalf of the society;

to use and apply the property of the society in money or in kind;

to purchase, sell, or rent premises or equipment;

to employ persons to carry on the work of the society;

to make grants to persons or organisations; and

generally to do or undertake such other things as may be necessary for or conducive to the proper and efficient conduct of the work of the society and may be approved at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the society, or at a meeting of the Executive Committee thereof.

6. (1) Membership of the society shall be open to any individual.

6. (2) An association of persons may be invited by the Executive Committee to become an Associate of the society on payment of an annual contribution to the funds of the society in such amount as the Executive Committee may in each case determine at its discretion. A representative of such an association has the right to attend but not to vote at a meeting of the Society.

6. (3) The membership of any person or association of persons the payment of whose annual subscription is twelve months in arrears shall be deemed to have lapsed.

7. (1) Once in each calendar year an Annual General Meeting of all members of the Society shall be held for the purpose of:

electing the officers of the society for the ensuing year;

electing the members of the executive Committee for the ensuing year;
receiving the audited accounts of the society;
determining the rate or rates of subscription;
receiving an Annual Report on the work of the society in the previous year; and
issuing such directions with respect to the policy and conduct of the society as may be decided by a vote of two thirds of the members present thereat.

7 (2) At the request of the Chair or a majority of the Executive Committee or of ten per cent of paid up members of the society a Special General Meeting shall be called for any purpose concerning the policy or conduct of the society. At least two weeks notice of such a meeting shall be given in advance to all members of the society.

7 (3) Except as provided in paragraph 7.(1) and paragraph 13.(1) hereof, any motion considered at an Annual General Meeting of the society shall be decided by the majority vote of those present thereat.

7 (4) All motions to be proposed at such a meeting shall be notified to the Secretary at least seven days in advance of such a meeting, subject to the Chair's power to allow, at his/her discretion and any motion to be submitted at the meeting notwithstanding the fact that it had not been so notified.

7 (5) Nominations for election at any such meeting should if possible be notified to the Secretary at least seven days in advance of a meeting at which the election is to take place.

7 (6) The Chair shall preside at all Annual or Special General Meetings of the society: provided that in the event of the inability of the Chair to be present at an Annual or Special General Meeting a Chair for that meeting only shall be elected by those present thereat.

7 (7) The Chair at any Annual or Special General Meeting shall be entitled to vote on any motion before the meeting and in the event of a tie shall have a second and casting vote.

7 (8) A quorum at any Annual or Special General Meeting shall be ten per cent of paid-up members, or at a subsequent meeting called in the event of such a meeting when there was no quorum, as many members as may attend such subsequent meeting.

8. The members of the society at any Annual or Special General Meeting thereof may elect any person to be the President thereof. The members of the society may likewise elect any person to be a vice-president or patron of the society

9. The officers of the Society shall be the Chair, up to 2 Vice-Chairs, Secretary (Minutes & Correspondence), Secretary (Publications), Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Information Officer, who shall be members of the Society and, except as provided in paragraph 10.(5) hereof, shall be elected by the members at an Annual General Meeting of the society.

10. (1) There shall be an executive Committee of the society which shall consist of:

(a) the President and Vice-President ex officio;

(b) the officers of the society;

(c) twelve other members who, except as provided in subparagraph (5) of this/her paragraph; shall be elected by the members at the Annual General Meeting of the society;

Provided that the Executive Committee may add to its membership by co-opting other members of the society

10. (2) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Committee:

Provided that in the event of his/her unavoidable absence from any meeting the Vice-Chair shall serve as Chair for that meeting only, or in the absence of both Chair and Vice-Chair, any member shall be elected to serve as Chair for that meeting only.

10. (3) The Executive Committee shall determine its own procedures

10. (4) The functions of the Executive Committee shall be to direct the affairs of the Society in accordance

with the terms of this Constitution and any directions issued by the members of the society at an Annual or Special General Meeting thereof in accordance with paragraph 7.(1) or 7.(2) hereof.

10, (5) In the event of the retirement of any officer or of any member of the Executive Committee other than a co-opted member at any time other than that of an Annual General Meeting, the vacancy shall be filled by the Executive Committee by the vote of three-quarters of the members present, or, in default of such agreement, by the members at a Special General Meeting.

10 (6) A quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee shall be eight elected members.

11 (1) For the purpose of carrying out any function or functions of the society, the Executive Committee may establish such other Committee or Committees as it shall consider necessary.

11 (2) The Executive Committee shall appoint the members and determine the powers, responsibilities and procedures of any Committee or Committees established in accordance with this/her paragraph: Provided that the Chair or Chairmen of any such Committee or Committees shall be a member or members of the Executive Committee.

12. (1) True and sufficient accounts of the funds of the society shall be kept by or under the supervision of the Treasurer.

12. (2) Auditors of the accounts of the society shall be appointed at each Annual General Meeting, or, that failing, by the Executive Committee.

12 (3) At each Annual General Meeting the audited accounts of the society in respect of the preceding year shall be presented by the Treasurer, or by some person acting on his/her behalf.

12 (4) Cheques drawn on behalf of the society shall be signed by such person or persons as the Executive Committee may direct.

12 (5) The financial year of the society shall be the calendar year.

13 (1) Any change in this Constitution shall require the affirmative vote of not less than three quarters of members present at an Annual or Special General Meeting of the society. Any such proposal must be submitted 28 days in advance of such a meeting to the Secretary who will notify members prior to such a meeting.

13 (2) In the event of the society ceasing to operate the residual funds and other property of the society shall be applied at a General Meeting of the society by a majority vote of the members present thereat to a purpose for the benefit of the Republic of Zimbabwe having the nearest affinity to the aims and purposes of the society.

13. (3) Upon the disposal of the funds and other property of the society in accordance with subparagraph (2) of this/her paragraph, the society shall be deemed to have been disestablished and to have ceased to exist.

Standing Orders:

i. Date of the AGM, paragraph 7 (1): The AGM shall normally be held in October or November of each year.

ii. Regulation of nominations to the executive, paragraph 7 (5). Nominations should be submitted in writing in advance, together with the written agreement of the candidate to stand. Nominations may be made at the AGM but will only be accepted if the candidate is present.

iii. Term of office: All elections and co-options are for a period of one year. Members of the executive are free to stand for re-election each year.

iv. Co-options: Up to four co-options (paragraph 10 (1) (c)) may be noted at the AGM and ratified at the next executive meeting.

v. Lapse of membership: Elective membership of the executive shall be deemed to have lapsed following the failure to attend three consecutive meetings without apology. Representatives of national and regional groups or links are free to nominate someone to attend in their stead.