

Constitution of the East Ayrshire Conservative & Unionist Association approved at a General Meeting of the above, held on 15 August 2024 in the Church Hall, St Marnock's Church, Kilmarnock.

MODEL RULES FOR AN ASSOCIATION

(Mandatory rules indicated in bold type as per Article 7.1 of the Constitution of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

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MODEL RULES FOR AN ASSOCIATION

Name & Affiliation:

- 1.0. The name of the Association shall be East Ayrshire Conservative and Unionist Association (hereinafter referred to as the Association).
- 1.1. In order to fulfil the objects of the Association as hereinafter specified, it shall be a requirement that the Association be affiliated to the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party (hereinafter referred to as "the Party") and through it to the Conservative and Unionist Party of the United Kingdom in accordance with their respective Rules. The Association and its members shall be bound by the Constitution and Rules of the Party.

Objects:

- 2.0. The Objects of the Association shall be:
- 2.0.1. to provide an efficient and effective organisation for the Conservative and Unionist Party in Scotland (hereinafter referred to as "the Party") in the Local Government Electoral Area of East Ayrshire (hereinafter referred to as "the Constituency").
- 2.0.2. to advance the knowledge of the Party's principles and policies and generally to promote the interests of the Party in the Constituency.
- 2.0.3. to secure the return of Conservative and Unionist Members of the UK Parliament for all Westminster Parliamentary Constituencies located wholly or partially within the Constituency.
- 2.0.4. to secure the return of Conservative and Unionist Members of the Scottish Parliament for all Scottish Parliamentary Constituencies located wholly or partially within the Constituency.
- 2.0.5. to assist in securing the return under proportional representation of Conservative and Unionist Members of the Scottish Parliament.
- 2.0.6. to secure the return of Conservative and Unionist Councillors at Local Government Elections in wards or electoral divisions falling within the Boundaries of the Constituency.
- 2.0.7. to scrutinise the revision of the Constituency Register of Electors in the interests of the Party and to take steps to ensure that all supporters who are qualified are in a position to record their votes.
- 2.0.8. to afford mutual assistance to neighbouring and other Associations which are affiliated to the Party.
- 2.0.9. to raise funds for the achievement of the foregoing objectives and to contribute to the funds of the Party.
- 2.0.10. in order to assist in the achievement of the foregoing objectives, to work in close co-operation with the Party and its constituent parts.

Membership:

- 3.0. Any person declaring his support for the Party and for the objectives of the Association defined in Rule 2 hereof shall be eligible (subject to Rule 37 hereof) to become a member of the Association upon payment of a subscription for the current year or such other period as may be prescribed provided however that such person:
- (a) be resident within the Constituency or
 - (b) have a substantial business connection within the Constituency or
 - (c) have some other substantial and significant connection with the Constituency; as to which connection in (b) and (c) the Executive Council shall be the sole judge.
- 3.1. All members of the Association shall automatically become members of the Party and shall be bound to promote the formation and development of an affiliated Conservative and Unionist Association in Local Government Electoral Areas in Scotland (hereinafter referred to as "a Constituency Association"), the principal affiliated organisations and such other affiliated organisations as the Party may deem it expedient to recognise.
- 3.2. No person who has ceased to be a member of the Party shall remain a member of the Association.
- 3.3. Any person who ceases to be a member of the Association shall contemporaneously cease to be a member of the Party and shall have no right or interest in the property and funds of the Association or of the Party.

Subscriptions:

4. Subscriptions shall be paid to the Treasurer of the Association and shall be payable annually in advance and not later than 28 days after the expiry of the previous year's subscription. A member who has not paid his subscription by the said date shall be deemed to have resigned from the Association. A subscription shall not be returnable either in whole or in part on the cessation of membership.

Voting Procedures:

- 5.0. Any member of the Association who has paid his subscription shall have the right to attend any Annual or Special General Meeting of the Association or of a branch or section of which he or she is a member.
- 5.1. The right to vote at such meetings shall only extend to a member whose paid-up membership is effective from a date 28 days at least prior to the date of the meeting in question.

Constitution of Branches:

- 6.0. To achieve the objectives of the Association, the work of the Association may be dealt with by branches established in Wards or other groupings of Polling Districts in the Constituency.
- 6.1. A branch shall only be formed with the authority of the Executive Council of the Association and once formed shall be part of the Association and be responsible to the Executive Council for its actions and operation.
- 6.2. All funds and assets of a branch shall belong to the Association and (except as provided in Rule 25.0) shall be under the control of the Executive Council, notwithstanding that some or all of the assets may be held in the name of Trustees on behalf of that branch.
- 6.3. The Executive Council shall have ultimate control over all branches of the Association including Scottish Young Conservative Branches.

Disbandment of a Branch:

- 7.0. The Executive Council of the Association shall have the authority to disband a branch. On disbandment the funds and assets of the branch shall be dealt with as the Executive Council shall decide.

Procedures on Disbandment:

- 8.0. The following procedures shall apply for the disbandment of a branch:
- 8.0.1. Not less than 28 days notice shall be given in writing to the Chairman and any other Officer of the branch of the meeting of the Executive Council of an affiliated Conservative and Unionist Association at which disbandment of that Association is to be proposed. The Chairman and Officers of that Association shall be invited by the Executive Council to send not more than two Officers or representatives of that Association to attend such meeting. They shall be entitled to make representations as to why the Association should not be disbanded.
- 8.0.2. If having heard such representations, if any, the Executive Council resolves that the Association shall be disbanded, notice of the Resolution shall be given in writing to the Chairman of the Association and any other Officer of such Association. The Resolution shall not take effect for a period of 28 days from the date when notice of the Resolution is given.
- 8.0.3. If within the said period of 28 days, the Association shall request that the matter be submitted as a dispute in accordance with the provisions of Rule 44, the Resolution disbanding the Association shall be suspended unless and until it has been confirmed by the Management Board of the Party.

Funds:

- 9.0. The funds and assets of the Association shall belong to the Association but shall be under the control of the Executive Council.
- 9.0.1. Bank or Building Society or similar accounts shall be held in the name of the Association and shall be operated by the signature of two out of three Officers of the Association, one of whom shall be the Honorary Treasurer, as the Executive Council may determine.

9.0.2 Investment Fund

The proceeds of the sale of 78 Irvine Rd (previously the property of the Association), "the Investment Fund", shall be invested for the future benefit of East Ayrshire Conservative and Unionist Association or its successor. The Investment Fund shall belong to the Association but shall be under the control of members appointed by the Executive Council.

The Investment Fund will be managed by Muir Brown plc Financial Consultants of Glasgow, and shall be invested via Quilter Cheviot Ltd, or their successors as agreed by the Executive Committee, with the objective of achieving capital growth and income. The income from the Investment Fund shall be transferred to The Association election revenue account for use within the boundaries of the association.

The control of the Investment Fund shall be vested in the President, Chairman and one other member of the Association or as agreed unanimously by the Executive Committee. It shall be the role of these individuals to ensure that the objectives of the investment are being met.

They shall have sole discretion to transfer up to £5000 of capital to the Association revenue account only in exceptional emergency circumstances, following a request by the Officers and Executive Committee of the Association.

Trustees:

- 10.0.** All heritable property of the Association shall be vested in Trustees who shall be the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Secretary of the Association for the time being (or such other Officers of the Association as the Executive Council shall appoint) so long as the Association remains affiliated to the Party and, in the event of disaffiliation or dissolution of the Association, the Officers of the Party for the time being and for the purpose set forth in para. 8. of the constitution of the Party; under declaration that it shall not be within the powers of the Association to settle or cause or permit to be settled any property on trust for the Association or for the purposes of the Association on terms excluding or attempting to exclude or having the effect of excluding the devolution of that property on the Officers of the Party for the said purposes on disaffiliation or dissolution of the Association.

Officers:

- 11.0** The Officers of the Association shall be:-
- 11.0.1.** President, Honorary President and such Honorary Vice President(s) as may be approved by resolution of the Executive Council.
- 11.0.2.** Chairman.
- 11.0.3.** Deputy Chairman, and such Vice Chairmen as the Association may in general meeting decide.
- 11.0.4.** The Chairman of the Women's Constituency Committee and the Chairman of the Scottish Young Conservative Committee, *ex officio*s.
- 11.0.5.** Honorary Secretary where no Agent or Organising Secretary has been appointed.
- 11.0.6.** Honorary Treasurer.
- 11.0.7.** A Political Officer who shall be responsible to the executive for co-ordinating the formulation of policy ideas and initiatives.
- 11.1.** No Officer shall hold the same office for more than three consecutive years except with the consent of the Association in General Meeting.
- 11.2.** The Officers shall be elected annually at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 11.3.** The President, Honorary President, Honorary Vice President, Chairman, Deputy Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Treasurer of the Association shall be members of all Committees of the Executive Council and of Constituency and Branch Committees and shall be entitled to notices of all Committee Meetings.
- 11.4.** The Executive Council shall have power to appoint a successor to an elected Officer who ceases to hold office for any reason. Such appointment shall be valid until the succeeding Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 11.5** For the purposes of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA) the Association Chairman on election automatically assumes the role of Registered

Treasurer and the Honorary Treasurer automatically assumes the role of Deputy Registered Treasurer. All changes to these office holders must be notified to Conservative Central Office within 14 days of the change to comply with the PPERA or successor legislation.

- 11.6 **A Data Protection Officer with responsibility for ensuring compliance with Data Protection legislation shall be appointed by the Executive Council.**

Executive Council:

- 12.0. The Executive Council shall be the governing body of the affiliated Association.
12.1. The Executive Council shall be responsible to the Association in General Meeting for the exercise of its functions and shall be subject in connection therewith to such resolutions as may be passed by the Association in General Meeting.
12.2. The Chairman of the affiliated Association shall be Chairman of the Executive Council.
12.3 Two representatives from the Constituency Association plus an additional representative for each 50,000 electors or part thereof within the appropriate Local Government Electoral Area of the Association (2 for East Ayrshire) all nominated by their respective constituency executives plus elected Councillors are eligible to attend West Regional Council meetings.

Constitution of the Executive Council:

- 13.0. The Executive Council shall comprise the following:-
13.0.1. The Officers of the Association.
13.0.2. The members of the General Purposes Committee, if any.
13.0.3. Representatives from each Branch, if any.
13.0.4. All Conservative Local Government Councillors who represent any Ward within the Constituency.
13.0.5. One representative from each Specialist or ad hoc Committee set up with the authority of the Executive Council.
13.0.6. The Agent or Organising Secretary of the Association who shall act as Secretary.
13.0.7. The Association Policy Officer, if any.
13.0.8. The Conservative Member of the Scottish Parliament for any Scottish Parliament Constituency wholly or partially within the Constituency or the prospective Conservative Scottish Parliamentary Candidate for any Scottish Parliament Constituency wholly or partially within the Constituency (who shall receive notices of meetings of the Executive Council and who shall have the right to attend its meetings but who shall not in that capacity be entitled to vote).
13.0.9. The Conservative Member of the United Kingdom Parliament for any Westminster Parliamentary Constituency wholly or partially within the Constituency or the Prospective Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for any Westminster Parliamentary Constituency wholly or partially within the Constituency (who shall receive notices of meetings of the Executive Council and who shall have the right to attend its meetings but who shall not in that capacity be entitled to vote).
13.0.10. The Chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, Regional Convener, the Honorary Secretary of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party, the Director of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party and the Regional Campaign Manager, or their respective nominees (each of whom shall be entitled to receive notice of and to attend meetings and address meetings of the Executive Council and any other body of the Association but who shall not in that capacity be entitled to vote).
13.0.11. Up to nine members to be co-opted as the Executive Council may determine.

Powers and Functions of the Executive Council:

- 14.0 Subject to Rule 12.1. hereof the Executive Council shall have the power to deal with all matters affecting the Association and to exercise control over all Branches and specialist committees or groups of the Association.
14.1. The Executive Council shall elect such representatives as are required by the Constitution of the Party

Meetings and Notice:

- 15.0. The Executive Council shall meet not less than four times per annum. Additional meetings may be held at the discretion of the Chairman. At least 14 days notice of each meeting and of the business to be dealt with at that meeting shall be given to those who are entitled to attend the meeting.

- 15.1. Business not specified in the notice convening the meeting may be discussed by leave of the Chairman. Insofar as the said business requires to be disposed of by way of resolution or other similar procedural disposal such procedural disposal shall require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting.
- 15.2. In any matter of urgency (as to which the Chairman shall be the sole judge) the Chairman may dispense with the said 14 day period of notice, provided however that business at that meeting shall be confined to that stated in the notice convening the meeting and no other. Any decision reached at such a meeting shall be notified to members of the Association within 14 days of the meeting.

Committees:

- 16.0. The Executive Council shall meet as soon as reasonably practicable after the Annual General Meeting of the Association.
- 16.1. At said meeting the Executive Council may appoint a General Purposes Committee.
- 16.2. The Executive Council shall define the powers which are to be delegated to the General Purposes Committee which powers may include the general control of financial affairs of the Association and of its property together with such other powers as the Executive Council shall consider appropriate.
- 16.3. The Executive Council may also appoint such Specialist or ad hoc Committees as it may from time to time consider necessary or desirable.
- 16.4. Such Specialist or ad hoc Committees shall have such power to elect their own Chairman and shall have such power of co-option as the Executive Council shall decide.

Quorum:

- 17.0 The quorum of the Executive Council, of the General Purposes Committee, and of any other Committee appointed by the Executive Council shall be two-fifths of their respective members and in no instance shall be fewer than three.

Constituency General Purposes Committee:

Membership:

- 18.0. The Chairman of the Association shall act as the Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and the Agent or Organising Secretary or Honorary Secretary of the Association shall act as Secretary of the Committee.
- 18.1. The following shall be members of the Committee:-
- 18.1.1. The Officers of the Association.
- 18.1.2. The Chairman of all Specialist or ad hoc Committees.
- 18.1.3. Not more than five additional co-opted members.
- 18.1.4. The Agent or Organising Secretary or Honorary Secretary of the Association.

Powers:

- 19.0. Where appointed The General Purposes Committee shall exercise such powers as may be delegated to it by the Executive Council.

Meetings:

- 20.0. The General Purposes Committee shall meet at least six times per annum.

Branches:

- 21.0. Subject to the provisions of 6.0., branches may be formed in Wards or other groupings of Polling Districts comprising members of the Association resident in or having substantial business interests located within or having some other substantial and significant connections with such Wards or districts.

Objectives:

- 22.0. The objective of each branch shall be to carry out the objectives of the Association within the Ward or districts, subject to the directions of the Executive Council of the Association.

Branch Meetings:

- 23.0. Each branch shall hold an Annual General Meeting not later than 14 months nor less than 10 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting for the purposes of electing Officers and a Committee, the approval of the Branch Accounts and for such other purposes as may be considered appropriate.
- 23.1. In addition each branch may hold General Meetings from time to time at the discretion of the Chairman or upon a written requisition by at least 10% of the members for the purpose of persons to fill casual vacancies or for such other purposes as may be notified in the Notice calling the meeting.

Officers and Committee:

- 24.0. The Officers of a branch shall be a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen, an Honorary Treasurer and an Honorary Secretary who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the electing branch.
- 24.1. The Committee of a branch shall be the Officers and such members as are decided by the Branch to be necessary for the attainment of its objectives and who shall be elected at the Branch Annual General Meeting together with a representative or representatives of any Scottish Young Conservative Organisation and any special groups in the Branch.

Funds and Property:

- 25.0. The Branch Committee shall have power to raise funds. The funds shall be the property of the Association. Subject to the direction of the Executive Council the Branch Committee shall hold, manage and administer the funds of the Branch (being cash in hand and monies on current and deposit account at a Bank or Building Society in name of the Branch for behoof of the Association). The Executive Council shall from time to time determine the limit of funds so to be held by the Branch Committee. Any property other than cash in hand or monies on current or deposit account at a Bank or Building Society shall vest immediately in the Association in accordance with Rule 6.2. and shall be administered by the Executive Council.
- 25.1. All Branch Accounts shall be submitted for checking to a competent person (who may be a member of the Association but who shall not be directly connected with the Branch) appointed by each Branch, and thereafter be presented to the Branch Annual General Meeting for approval. A certified true copy of the duly checked and approved statements of accounts shall be delivered to the Association Honorary Treasurer or Agent or Organising Secretary immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the Branch.

Women's Constituency Committee:

Membership:

- 26.0. The Executive Council may establish a Women's Constituency Committee which shall be formed in accordance with Rule 6.0. and, if so formed, shall be constituted as follows:-
- 26.0.1 Members elected by the women's section of each branch of the Association or by the branch itself in any case in which there is no women's section.
- 26.0.2. Not more than 3 co-opted members.
- 26.0.3. The Agent or Organising Secretary or Secretary of the Association shall receive notice of and shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Committee.

Functions and Powers:

- 27.0. The functions and powers of the Committee shall be as follows:-
- 27.0.1. Generally to further the objectives of the Association amongst women and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing;
- 27.0.2. To consider and discuss matters especially affecting women electors and women's organisations;
- 27.0.3. To recruit and train members to be available to render practical assistance at election times or at such other times as may be required;
- 27.0.4. To raise funds for the Association which funds shall be held and managed as stipulated in Rule 25.0 hereof.

Meetings:

- 28.0. The Committee shall meet not less than four times per annum. The Annual Meeting shall be held before the end of December in each year to elect the Officers and to receive the report of the Committee's work.
- 28.1. 3 Members shall form a quorum.
- 28.2. The procedure for the summoning and conduct of meetings shall conform to that laid down in respect of the Executive Council.

Election of Officers:

- 29.0. The Committee shall elect the following Officers at the Annual Meeting of the Committee:-
- Chairman
 - Vice Chairman
 - Honorary Secretary

Honorary Treasurer

- 29.1. Nominations in writing for the election of Officers shall be made to the Honorary Secretary of the Committee within seven days of the date of the dispatch of the notice summoning the meeting; in the event that no written nominations have been received for any office within the said period, nominations for that office may be made at the meeting.
- 29.2. Any member of the Committee shall be entitled to submit nominations.
- 29.3. Where the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, voting shall be by ballot at the Annual Meeting of the Committee.

Conservative Future Section:

- 30.0. The Executive Council may establish a Scottish Young Conservative section within the Association.
- 30.1. All young persons who are 15 years of age and over but no more than 30 years of age and who are eligible for membership of the Association may choose to subscribe to the Association through the Conservative Future Section and in the event of so doing shall be members of the Association. All such young persons so subscribing (hereinafter referred to as "Conservative Future Members") shall be members also of the Conservative Future Section.
- 30.2. The day to day administration of the Conservative Future Section shall be under the charge of a Conservative Future Constituency Committee which shall in turn be responsible to and subject to the direction of the Executive Council.
- 30.3. The powers of the Conservative Future Constituency Committee shall be:-
 - 30.3.1. Generally to further the objectives of the Association amongst young people and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing;
 - 30.3.2. To consider and discuss matters especially concerning young people;
 - 30.3.3. To recruit members to be available to render practical assistance at election times or at such other times as may be required.
 - 30.3.4. To raise funds and other revenue for the Association which funds and other revenue shall be held and managed as stipulated in Rule 25.0. hereof.
- 30.4. The Officers of the Conservative Future Constituency Committee shall be a Chairman, Conservative Future Scotland Regional Chairman, one or more Vice Chairmen, an Honorary Secretary and an Honorary Treasurer, who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Conservative Future Section.
- 30.5. The Committee shall comprise the Officers, one representative of each of the Young Conservative Branches mentioned hereafter and no more than other Committee members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Young Conservative Section.
- 30.6. The Executive Council on the advice of the Conservative Future Constituency Committee may establish such Conservative Future Branches as it considers appropriate and the provisions of Rules 21.0. to 25.0. hereof shall apply, subject to such modifications as the Executive Council may approve.
- 30.7. The Conservative Future Constituency Committee and the Conservative Future Branches may in General Meeting promulgate such further rules for the conduct of their affairs as they consider appropriate provided however that:-
 - 30.7.1. None of said rules shall be in contravention of any provisions herein.
 - 30.7.2. Said rules shall be void and of no effect unless and until they have been approved or approved subject to amendment by the Executive Council.
- 30.8. The Agent or Organising Secretary or Secretary of the Association shall receive notice of and be entitled to attend all meetings of the Conservative Future Branches and Constituency Committee.

Employed staff:

- 31.0. The Executive Council shall have power to appoint an employee or employees.

Duties:

- 31.1. The employee or employees' duties shall be determined by the Executive Council.

Terms of Employment:

- 31.2. There shall be a valid contract of employment between the Association and any employee and the form and provisions of this contract shall be as recommended from

time to time by the Director of Human Resources, or equivalent, at Conservative Central Office.

- 31.3. The Executive Council shall also have the power to enter into an agreement with a neighbouring Constituency Association or Constituency Associations for the purpose of jointly appointing an employee.

Meetings:

Annual General Meeting:

- 32.0. The Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held before the end of June in each year, being within six months of the end of the Association's financial year, for the following purposes:-
- 32.0.1 To receive and adopt the checked accounts of the Association for the financial year ending 31st December last.
- 32.0.2 To receive and adopt the report of the Executive Council on the work of the Association for the year ending 31st December last.
- 32.0.3 To elect the Officers of the Association according to Rule 11.0 hereof.
- 32.0.4. To appoint an Auditor who shall be a person with a recognised professional qualification and who may be a member of the Association but shall not be a member of the Executive Council.
- 32.0.5. To transact such other competent business as may be brought before it.

Those entitled to Attend and Vote:

- 32.1. All members of the Association shall, subject to any other provision herein contained, be entitled to attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting of the Association.

Notices:

- 32.2. Written notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be given to members at least 21 days before the date of the meeting and shall specify the purposes for which the meeting is called. Such Notice shall also give notice of the procedures and time limits for the receipt of nominations for the election of Officers.

Nominations:

- 32.3. Nominations for the election of Officers shall be made in writing and delivered to the Agent, Organising Secretary or Honorary Secretary, whom failing the Chairman, not less than seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting called for that purpose (hereinafter referred to as "the General Meeting"). In the event that no nominations for a particular office have been received by the said deadline then and in that event only, nominations for that office may be made at the General Meeting.
- 32.4. All nomination forms must be signed by a proposer and seconder who are members of the Association, and also by the person nominated indicating willingness to accept office. No person shall be eligible for election as an Officer unless he or she is a paid up member of the Association.
- 32.5. Where the number of nominations exceeds the number of offices to be filled, voting shall be by ballot at the General Meeting.

Special General Meeting:

- 33.0. A Special General Meeting of the Association may be summoned at any time by the Chairman of the Association or by not less than 10 percent or 50 (whichever is the lesser) members of the Association acting together who shall send a requisition in writing which shall contain the purpose of the request to the Secretary of the Association to convene such a meeting. The requisition shall be laid forthwith before the Executive Council of the Association which shall authorise the holding of a Special General Meeting as soon as reasonably practicable.
- 33.1. The business of the meeting shall be as stated in the notice convening it and no other business shall be discussed. At least 14 days notice shall be given of a Special General Meeting to members of the Association.
- 33.2. Where in the judgement of the Officers of the Association, an emergency has arisen demanding an immediate Special General Meeting, the notice given thereof shall be of such period as the Officers in their sole discretion deem to be sufficient.

General Meetings:

- 34.0. Notice of the Annual General Meeting and of any Special General Meeting of the Association shall be given by written notification to each member of the Association and/or by such other means as the Executive Council deem appropriate.
- 34.1. Whilst each member of the Association is entitled to attend all general meetings, the fact that any member of the Association has not, for any reason whatsoever, received notification of a general meeting, shall not invalidate such meeting or any resolution passed at that meeting or any election or appointment made at that meeting.

Quorum:

- 35.0. For all General Meetings of the Association the quorum shall be not less than 6

Voting Procedures:

- 36.0. In all matters excepting the election of Officers a vote may be taken, in the first instance, by a show of hands but the Chairman of the meeting, at his discretion, may direct a ballot to be taken and shall so direct if so requested by one-third of the members present and entitled to vote. The Chairman of the meeting shall have a deliberative vote and in the event of a tie a second or casting vote. All contested elections for Officers shall be conducted by ballot at the relevant meeting.

Expulsion:

- 37.0. The Executive Council may expel any member whose declared opinions or conduct shall be, in its judgement, inconsistent with the objectives of the Association. Before such power is exercised, seven days' notice shall be given to the person concerned of the intention of the Executive Council to expel him and an opportunity shall be afforded to him of showing cause before the Executive Council as to why he should not be so dealt with.
- 37.1. Any person expelled from membership of the Association shall not be eligible to apply anew for membership of the Association, save with the express prior approval of the Executive Council.
- 37.2. The member will have the right to appeal against their expulsion to the Management Board of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

Procedure - Parliamentary Candidates (Scotland and Westminster):

- 38.0. The Association shall act in consultation with the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Central Office and shall follow the procedure for the selection and adoption of Conservative Candidates set out in the Guidelines laid down from time to time by the Management Board.

Boundary Changes:

- 39.0. In the event of a change in the Westminster or Scottish Parliamentary boundaries wholly or partially within the Constituency the sitting Member of Parliament or Scottish Parliament shall have the right to submit himself or herself for selection for any Westminster or Scottish Parliament Constituency which may incorporate any part of the Constituency notwithstanding that there may be a Member of Parliament or Scottish Parliament representing another part of that Westminster or Scottish Parliament Constituency.

Candidate Member:

- 40.0. Any member of the Association who has applied for selection shall take no part whatsoever in any stage of the proceedings of the selection process or of the Executive Council whether or not he or she remains a candidate for selection and shall be treated on exactly the same terms and on exactly the same basis as any other applicant.

Local Government Candidates:

- 41.0. The Association shall act in consultation with the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Central Office and shall follow the procedure for the selection and adoption of Conservative Local Government Candidates set out in the Guidelines laid down from time to time by the Management Board.

Interpretation of Rules:

42.0. In the case of any ambiguity or doubt as to the meaning of a Rule, the decision of the Executive Council as to the matter of interpretation shall be binding.

Disputes:

43.0. Any dispute or difference between or amongst a member or members of the Association, any Branch, Section, Committee, or the Executive Council and any other constituent part of the Association or any Officer or member of the Association or such constituent part or any other person natural or juristic (hereinafter referred to as "the Disputants") concerning or regarding:

- (a) these presents or any Rules promulgated hereunder
- (b) the conduct or behaviour of any of the Disputants
- (c) the exercise of the objectives of the Association or
- (d) any matter or thing concerning the affairs of the Association and its said member Officers and constituent parts shall be considered in the first place by the Executive Council save where the Executive Council is itself a Disputant.

43.1. In relation to such a dispute as is before it by virtue of Rule 43.0. hereof the Executive Council shall vote by a simple majority whether to assume responsibility for the settlement of the dispute. In the event that it so votes it shall endeavour either itself or through such person or persons as may be appointed by it to conciliate between or amongst the Disputants.

43.2. In the event that the Executive Council cannot effect a conciliated settlement between or amongst the Disputants, it shall have power to impose such settlement upon them as it may consider appropriate which imposed settlement shall be effected by a resolution which shall require a simple majority of the persons present and voting at the meeting to which the resolution is put (under exception of the Disputants who if otherwise entitled to vote at the meeting shall not be entitled to do so) but without prejudice to any other specific provision contained within these Rules.

43.3. In the event that:-

- (a) the Executive Council by simple majority declines to exercise jurisdiction in such a dispute; or
- (b) the Executive Council by virtue of being a Disputant is not entitled to exercise jurisdiction; or
- (c) the Executive Council fails to effect a conciliated settlement and declines to or fails to impose a settlement; or
- (d) a Disputant is dissatisfied with any settlement imposed by the Executive Council;

the dispute shall be submitted to the Management Board which shall have the fullest powers by whatever procedure and through the agency of whomsoever it may consider appropriate to effect such settlement conciliated or imposed as it may in its unfettered discretion consider appropriate, or, in its unfettered discretion to refer any disciplinary aspect of the dispute to the Disciplinary Committee. The decision of the Management Board giving effect to such a settlement shall be final and conclusive and binding on the Association and all parties to the dispute.

Alteration of Rules:

44.0. Subject to the provisions of the Party Constitution making minimum requirements for the content of Rules of Constituency Associations, a General Meeting of the Association shall have the power to amend, add to or rescind the non mandatory Rules by a vote in favour of such resolution consisting of not less than two-thirds of those present and voting at the meeting.

44.1. Notice of any proposed alteration must reach the Secretary of the Association in writing at least 21 days before the date of the meeting. Notice of such proposed alteration shall be given in writing by the Secretary of the Association to the Director of the Party at least 14 days before the date of the meeting and to the members of the Association at least seven days before the date of the meeting.

44.2. No such Resolution as is referred to in Rule 44.0. hereof shall be valid or effectual unless such prior notice to the Director of the Party as is referred to in paragraph 44.1. hereof has been given.

44.3. No amendment shall be made to the terms of the proposed alteration after the same shall have been notified to the Director of the Party

Dissolution:

- 45.0. The Association may be dissolved upon a two-thirds majority of the votes cast at a General Meeting called for that purpose.**
- 45.1. No such General Meeting as is referred to in Rule 45.0. hereof may competently be held unless the Secretary of the Association shall have given not less than 14 days notice in writing of the same to the Director of the Party.**
- 45.2 In the event of the dissolution of the Association or its disaffiliation from the Party any and all funds, assets, heritable and moveable property, including the Investment Fund, shall vest ipso facto in the Trustees specified in Article 15 of the Constitution of the Party and that for the purposes therein also specified. Under no circumstances shall the said property hereinbefore referred to devolve upon or be payable to any other person for any other purpose whatsoever.**