

# CONSTITUTION OF THE SOUTH MAINLAND UP HELLY AA

## **Name**

The name of the organisation shall be the **SOUTH MAINLAND UP HELLY AA**; the name of the committee shall be the **SOUTH MAINLAND UP HELLY AA COMMITTEE** (hereinafter call the Committee). The **SOUTH MAINLAND** is defined as the area of Mainland Shetland from (and including), the village of Gulberwick to Sumburgh Head.

## **Objectives**

- To promote, organise and develop the **South Mainland Up Helly Aa festival**.
- To develop community links throughout the South mainland of Shetland through;
  - social contact and networking through participation in working groups preparing for the festival.
  - entertainment in public venues throughout the festival.
  - guizers visiting venues and meeting people in villages that they might not otherwise spend much time in.
- To secure or otherwise establish suitable facilities or premises where the galley can be built and where other preparations for the festival can take place.

Men and women over the age of 16 on the day of the festival are eligible to take part in the festival as Guizers in Squads. Young person aged 14 to 16 on the day of the festival may be fiddle box carriers (helpers) for the Guizer Squads.

## **Membership**

There shall be a Committee to organise and administer the South Mainland Up Helly Aa festival. Members shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) by those entitled to vote. They shall be elected on the following basis;

**One member each from the areas of:**

- 1. Bigton / Levenwick**
- 2. Dunrossness**
- 3. Cunningsburgh / Fladdabister**
- 4. Sandwick / Hoswick**
- 5. Gulberwick / Quarff**

- **The previous Guizer Jarl, the current Guizer Jarl and the next four Guizer Jarl's Elect.**
- **Further members, over the age of 18, from any area of Shetland.**

The Secretary and Treasurer, appointed by the Committee, do-not have to be Committee Members.

The Committee shall have the power to appoint or dismiss Committee Members, the Secretary or Treasurer with majority agreement. One half of the eligible members shall be a quorum.

## **Vice-Chair and Chairperson**

The next Jarl shall be Chairperson of the Committee, taking up their post at the AGM.

The previous Jarl shall be Vice-Chair of the Committee.

In the absence of the Chairperson the Vice-Chair shall preside, if both are absent then the first business of the meeting shall be to elect a member to preside at that meeting.

The Presiding Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote if there is a case of equality on any resolution.

## **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

The Committee shall convene an Annual General Meeting in September / October each year.

Committee members shall be elected at the AGM to serve on the Committee for a period of three years.

New committee members may be elected to replace those having served their term each year at the AGM.

Retiring Committee members are eligible for re-election at the end of their term.

If a serving Committee member becomes Jarl Elect then a new Committee member may be elected to fill the remaining term of the position.

The Committee shall present an Annual Report and a Financial Report with independently checked and certified accounts at the AGM.

Guizers participating the South Mainland Up Helly Aa (over the age of 16), and Committee Members shall be entitled to vote at the Annual General Meeting.

### **Appointment of Guizer Jarl**

A Guizer Jarl shall be appointed at the AGM. They shall be resident in the areas below in the numbered rotation:

1. **Bigton / Levenwick**
2. **Dunrossness**
3. **Cunningsburgh / Fladdabister**
4. **Sandwick / Hoswick**
5. **Gulberwick / Quarff**

Prospective Guizer Jarl/s shall contact the Secretary no later than one week prior to the AGM to register their interest to stand for Guizer Jarl. Nominations will be considered at the AGM. If multiple nominations are received by the Secretary a vote shall be undertaken at the AGM to choose a prospective Guizer Jarl. Those present at the AGM eligible to vote, may vote to choose a prospective Guizer Jarl. Failure to appoint a Guizer Jarl at this meeting will mean appointing a Jarl, resident in any area of the South Mainland, at the February / March Mass Meeting, to represent the area concerned.

### **Finance**

All monies raised by or on behalf of the Committee shall be applied to further the objectives of the South Mainland Up Helly Aa or on occasion by majority approval at the Annual General Meeting other charitable purposes as appropriate.

The treasurer shall keep full and proper Accounts and the Financial Year of the Committee shall be from 1<sup>st</sup> July to 30<sup>th</sup> June each year.

### **Heritable Property**

The title to all and any heritable property which may be acquired by or for the purposes of the Committee shall be taken and shall thereafter stand in the names of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chair and Secretary of the Committee and their successors in these respective offices.

### **Dissolution**

If the Committee by a majority decides at any time that on the ground of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the Committee it shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting giving not less than 21 days notice stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed thereat. It shall be posted in conspicuous places and advertised in a local newspaper circulating in the area. If such a decision shall be confirmed by a majority of those present the Committee shall have the power to dispose of any assets held by or in name of the Committee. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be applied towards the purposes which the law regards as charitable for the benefit of the inhabitants of the South Mainland as the Committee may decide.

### **Alterations to the Constitution**

Any alterations to this constitution must be approved by a majority at an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting convened for that purpose. The notice of motion stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed thereat shall be advertised on the official SMUHA website for at least 21 days before the AGM.

