

DRAIG WERDD – THE WELSH SOCIETY IN IRELAND

CONSTITUTION

<u>Par.</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1	TITLE
1.1	<p>The name of the organisation shall be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAIG WERDD – THE WELSH SOCIETY IN IRELAND</p> <p style="text-align: center;">hereinafter called "the Organisation".</p>
1.2	<p>Amended via motion at AGM Oct 2004</p> <p>It is further resolved that, in all matters pertaining to the financial and legal affairs of the Organisation, the official and preferred title shall be</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DRAIG WERDD</p>
1.3	<p>Where possible, all documents and information issued by the Organisation shall be in both English and Welsh. Where differences exist between the English and Welsh versions of a document, the version in English shall be taken as the true version.</p>
2	OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION
2.1	<p>To raise the profile of Wales and Welsh affairs in Ireland through communication via the media and through representations to political bodies and individuals, to commercial organizations, and to private individuals, as appropriate. This includes raising awareness of current affairs in Wales in the areas of politics, economics, language, culture etc.</p>
2.2	<p>To highlight misconceptions and misinformation about Wales and Welsh affairs which may have gained currency in the Irish media and amongst the population in general.</p>
2.3	<p>To act as a conduit for Irish experiences in political, cultural, and economic matters which may have relevance for Wales to be passed back to the appropriate Welsh organizations or individuals.</p>

- 2.4 To foster unity of action and awareness among individuals in Ireland who wish to make a contribution to the development of the Welsh national identity overseas.
- 2.5 The Organisation shall have no affiliation to any political or similar organisation.

3 MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANISATION

3.1 The Organisation shall be managed by a Committee elected by Members in General Meeting.

3.2 The Committee shall comprise the following Officers:-

- Honorary Chairperson (hereinafter called “Chairperson”)
- Honorary Secretary (hereinafter called “Secretary”)
- Honorary Treasurer (hereinafter called “Treasurer”)

Number of ordinary members reduced from 4 to 2 via resolution at 2007 AGM

Plus two Ordinary Members

3.3 **Election of Committee Officers and Members** – All Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected for a period of office of 1 year by the Members at the AGM. All Officers and Members of the Committee shall be eligible for re-election at the end of their period of office.

3.4 Powers of the Committee

- 3.4.1 The Committee shall be empowered to appoint such Sub-Committees as may be required to deal with particular matters relating to the activities of the Organisation. The terms of reference and powers of all such Sub-Committees shall be defined by the Committee. All Sub-Committees shall be subject to review following the AGM.
- 3.4.2 The Committee shall be empowered to determine the amount of the Annual Membership Subscription to be paid by Members (if any) and the time period in which it shall be paid.

3.5 Resignations from the Committee.

- 3.5.1 If, for any reason, the office of Chairperson becomes vacant, the Committee shall appoint an existing member to undertake the Chairperson's duties until the next AGM, at which a new Chairperson will be elected.
- 3.5.2 If any other Officer's position becomes vacant, the Committee shall appoint an existing Member to undertake the vacating Officer's duties until the next AGM, at which a new Officer will be elected.
- 3.5.3 If any Ordinary Member of the Committee's position becomes vacant, the Committee may nominate a replacement Member, who will have full voting rights on the Committee
- 3.5.4 The Committee has the right to co-opt additional Members on to the Committee at any time, if deemed necessary. Co-opted Members will not have any voting rights.
- 3.6 A quorum of three Committee Members is required before a Committee Meeting may proceed.
- 3.7 In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.
- 3.8 The Committee shall meet at agreed intervals during the Organisation year.

*Quorum reduced from 4
to 3 by resolution at
2007 AGM*

4 MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Membership of the organisation will be open to any individual, from any cultural or national background, who agrees with the aims of the organisation, and shares the same concerns regarding the promotion of Welsh interests in Ireland and elsewhere.
- 4.2 Members must submit an initial application request, and be accepted for membership by the committee. Membership will remain active until the Member submits a written resignation, or until membership is terminated by the committee (see clause 4.4).
- 4.3 Only Members shall have voting rights on all issues pertaining to the Organisation.

4.4 Any Member deemed by the Committee to have brought the organisation into disrepute is liable for suspension or dismissal.

5 FINANCE

5.1 The Organisation's Financial Year shall be 1st September to 31st August.

5.2 The Committee shall maintain Bank Accounts in the name of Draig Werdd at a Financial Institution (Bank, Building Society or other) to be determined by the Committee from time to time.

5.3 Cheques or withdrawals on such Accounts shall be signed in accordance with the mandate agreed annually by the Committee, as soon as possible after the AGM. Such mandate shall be in the format contained in the Organisation Rules.

5.4 The Organisation may receive donations, fees, financial guarantees, grants and sponsorship in the pursuit of its legitimate activities.

5.5 It shall be the duty of the Committee to ensure that all income and property of the Organisation will be utilised in promoting the aims and objectives of the Organisation as set out herein.

5.6 Legitimate expenses incurred on Organisation business, by members of the Organisation or the Committee, may be reimbursed on application to the Committee and at its discretion.

5.7 It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to maintain documentation and records, either in book or electronic form, relating to all financial activities of the Organisation. All the Organisation monies, received or paid, must pass through the records of the Organisation.

5.8 The Treasurer shall prepare Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet for presentation to the members of the Organisation at the AGM.

6 GENERAL MEETINGS

6.1 General Meetings may be either "Annual" or "Extraordinary" but the following sub-clauses apply to both.

6.1.1 Each Member shall be entitled to attend at a General Meeting.

6.1.2 The Committee shall be obliged and required to provide Members with a minimum of 14 days' notice, in writing or electronically, of the intention to hold a General Meeting and of the motion (or motions) to be considered.

6.1.3 It shall be noted that a quorum of 20% of registered Members present and voting is required before a General Meeting may proceed and it will require a two-thirds majority of those present and voting for any motion to be passed.

6.1.4 The accidental omission to give notice of any General Meeting to or the non-receipt of notices of a meeting by any Member entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

6.1.5 In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson shall have a second and casting vote.

6.2 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

6.2.1 The AGM shall be held within six weeks of the end of every Financial Year as defined in 5.1 above.

6.2.2 The purpose of the AGM is to:-

- Accept accounts for the preceding year.
- Elect Members to Committees.
- Consider any other appropriate business.

6.3 Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

6.3.1 An EGM may be convened upon the request, in writing, of not less than one-third of the registered Members stating the motion (or motions) to be considered.

7 **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

- 7.1 This Constitution may only be amended by the convening of an EGM at which the proposed amendment shall be put before the Members present and a vote taken in accordance with 6.1.3 above.

8 **RULES**

- 8.1 Rules for the Organisation shall be compiled by the Committee as deemed necessary and be available to all members of the Organisation.
- 8.2 The Committee shall have the power to change the Rules of the Organisation and shall be obliged to take all reasonable steps to promptly inform the membership of such changes.