

CONSTITUTION

Updated on 7th December 2016



The organisation shall be called the Rural GP Association of Scotland, hereafter referred to as RGPAS or the Association.

DEFINITIONS

GP: a UK General Medical Council registered Medical Practitioner, who has membership of the GP Register.

Rural GP: a GP who works in a rural healthcare setting. The RGPAS Committee will have the final judgement on what constitutes a rural healthcare setting for the purposes of RGPAS membership.

PURPOSE

To represent, progress and act as a forum for the educational and professional needs of rural GPs in Scotland.

Also, to represent the interests of rural GP practices and promote access to these learning environments for students and training.

MEMBERSHIP

Full membership shall be open to all rural GPs: defined as a General Medical Council Registered Medical Practitioner with membership of the GP Register who is working in a rural healthcare setting.

Honorary Membership shall be open to retired rural GPs. Applications for membership will be approved by the Committee and notified to the AGM. Honorary members will not have voting rights.

Student membership shall be available to people studying for a primary medical qualification at a UK medical school, who pay the according membership fees. Student members will not have voting rights.

Additional membership categories may be created by the Committee as necessary to reflect aims of RGPAS to engage with various levels of career stage and discipline. Additional membership categories will not have have voting rights.

COMMITTEE

A Committee will be elected annually at the AGM. Ordinary membership of the Committee will vary from year to year depending on the requirements of the Association. A Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at the AGM. The Committee will retire each year at the AGM but each member will be eligible for re-election, if the member so wishes. All candidates for election will be proposed and seconded by full



members, and any election will be decided by simple majority. A quorum will be necessary for an election to occur and this will require at least 20 % full members.

agm

An Annual General Meeting will be held, the date will be arranged at the previous AGM. The Committee may alter this date but must give at least two months warning if they intend to do so. An AGM may not be later than 14 months after the previous AGM. An auditor will be appointed.

egm

An Extraordinary General Meeting will be called by the Secretary, if so requested by twenty percent or more of Full Members, or if the Committee request it. The request must be made in writing to the Secretary. As much notice as is possible must be given to all Members, of the meeting, by the Secretary, normally at least two weeks. The committee may decide to hold the meeting using virtual meeting/videoconference technology.

records

The committee shall keep minutes of all appointments of officers and proceedings at general meeting.

FUNCTION

The function of the Committee shall be to further the purposes of the Association as defined in the Constitution, and to carry out the Committee instructions of RGPAS as given to them at an AGM or an EGM. They may use the monies of the Association in pursuance of their functions, except if directed otherwise by a General Meeting. A statement of audited account will be presented to, and offered for acceptance by the Association at the AGM or if so required, at an EGM. The Committee shall be entitled to reasonable expenses in performing their functions.

president and vice president(s)

From time to time, these posts will be appointed in recognition of the esteem in which the Association holds the individuals. The duties of the Honorary President and Honorary Vice Presidents are those expected of such senior figures of the Association. If they are qualified to be ordinary members, they should have full voting rights. They will be appointed by an AGM and the post shall be for life or until they retire voluntarily.

chairperson

The Chairperson or his/her deputy will chair all meetings of RGPAS and its Committee, and will represent RGPAS to all interested parties. He/she will present the Association or Committee viewpoint without prejudice. In the event of a balanced vote at any meeting, the Chairperson shall have the casting vote.

vice chairperson

The Vice Chairperson will perform the duties of the Chairperson when the Chairperson is not available.



secretary

The Secretary shall conduct the correspondence of the Association and keep minutes of any meetings the Association may have. He/she will liaise with the Treasurer and maintain a current list of all members known to the Association.

treasurer

The Treasurer shall keep the funds of the Association. He/she shall yearly produce audited account of all expenditure, to the AGM. The financial year end will be 30th September. He/she will attempt to maximise the funds and will collect subscriptions. The funds shall be kept in a bank account or other investment, as may be determined by the Association. The treasurer's signature or that of the Chairman will access the monies of the Association at its approval.

postgraduate dean

The Postgraduate Dean will organize the Association's education schedule, including the Annual Conference as instructed by the Committee.

additional roles

The Committee may appoint non-office-bearing roles as required from time to time to achieve the aims of the Association. These will typically be referred to as 'co-opted' positions with or without further specification. Additional roles will not have committee voting rights.

CHANGES

Changes to The Constitution may be changed at any General Meeting, by a two thirds majority of those members present and after 21 days' notice of Constitution intent is given to the members.

SUBSCRIPTION

The annual fee for full membership shall be agreed annually at the AGM. The annual or other fees for other membership categories shall be agreed in line with the procedure for agreement of new membership categories defined above.

WINDING UP

RGPAS may be dissolved by resolution of its members, providing that this occurs at a general meeting (an extraordinary general meeting when necessary) where this is passed by a majority of 75% of those voting. Subject to RGPAS settling any debts, the remaining assets of the Association shall be disbursed to selected medical charities. There shall be a vote on how this should be accomplished, and Honorary Members shall be entitled to vote.

Constitution accepted at EGM held on 7th December 2016.

