



# *Conradh na Gaeilge Boirche Íochtar*

*This constitution was adopted at a Special General Meeting of  
CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR's members on  
11/01/2023*

**SIGNED:**

*Chairperson*

*Kevin P. Doran*

*Date: 11/01/2023*

*Secretary*

*Éamon Mac Donn*

*Date: 11/03/2023*

1. NAME

The name of the association is CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR.

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR and its property will be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by the members of the Management Committee ("the Committee") constituted by Clause 5 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS

3.1 CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR is established to advance education, reconciliation and training for the benefit of the Irish speakers, learners and the general public alike, primarily within the South Down area as well as its environs of Northern Ireland and the border counties (hereinafter called the "area of benefit") without distinction of age, sex, race, political, religious or other options, by associating the statutory authorities, voluntary organisations, institutions, business and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for health, recreation, language and leisure time activities, with the object of improving conditions of life for the inhabitants; and in particular to:

- (a) promote public awareness, knowledge and understanding of all of the cultural and linguistic heritages of Ireland, and to carry out research into, and promote public awareness of the social and economic structures of Irish society including the Irish-speaking community;
- (b) advance education and reconciliation by carrying out or assisting in the carrying out of research into the fields of arts, education, culture, community-work, training, and business, (especially, but not exclusively, among voluntary sector and community-based initiatives and projects) in the area of benefit and to publish the useful results thereof;
- (c) educate, advise, train, encourage, and provide practical assistance in furtherance of the primary objects to charitable bodies in an effort to assist them to secure adequate and appropriate resources for arts and cultural projects, education, community-work, training and research.
- (D) Provide or support the provision of social services, educational and recreational facilities in the area of benefit and provide or secure the provision of welfare rights advice and information and refer those in need of professional advice to the relevant agencies.
- (E) To promote participation, equality, social justice, Irish language and young people's rights through informal and educational events, activities, conversation and group work.
- (F) liaise with educational bodies to coordinate work, promote and develop strategies and encourage the setting up of, informal and young person community based educational initiatives to promote Irish-medium educational, arts, cultural, and community-work in furtherance of the above objects;

The above along with the further objectives listed below are co-ordinated from Páirc na Mara Community and Cultural Centre, based in Marine Park, Annalong which has been built and developed to assist with achieving the objectives of the organisation for the area of benefit.

3.2 In furtherance of the said objects, but not further or otherwise, CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall have power to:

- (a) develop, provide and promote educational and training courses at all levels for all age-groups within the area of benefit, including those with special needs or those who are disadvantaged or socially excluded
- (b) liaise with educational and training bodies to coordinate work, promote and develop strategies and encourage the setting up of local fora, educational initiatives and new accredited training to promote Irish-medium educational, arts and cultural, community-work and research projects;
- (c) provide or secure the provision of educational facilities and practical assistance for Irish-medium education, arts, community-work and training projects in the area of benefit in furtherance of the objects;
- (d) provide, maintain and equip or assist in the provision, maintenance or equipment of facilities designed to carry out the objects of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR;
- (e) promote and carry out or assist in promoting and carrying out research, surveys, investigations, and translations and publish the useful results thereof and research, collate and disseminate information from statutory, private sector or other sources relevant to Irish-medium organizations, training and educational bodies and the general public;
- (f) organise or assist in organising meetings, lectures, classes, exhibitions, courses, training, drama, talks, workshops, book launches, and publish or assist in publishing reports and other documents of information;
- (g) procure to be written and printed, published, issued, distributed and circulated reports, periodicals, books, pamphlets, leaflets, educational and training materials or other documents or communications in furtherance of the objects;
- (h) obtain, collect and receive money by way of grants, donations, bequests, legacies or other lawful method, and make or disburse grants or loans for charitable purposes in furtherance of the above objects provided that CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall not undertake any permanent trading activities;
- (i) purchase, take on lease or hire, or otherwise acquire any real or personal property and any rights or privileges necessary for the promotion of the above objects and construct, maintain or alter any buildings or erections which CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR may think necessary for the promotion of the objects;
- (j) make any regulations for any property which may be so acquired;
- (k) subject to any consents which may for the time being be required by law, sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR with a view to the furtherance of its objects;
- (l) subject to such consents as may be required by law, receive money on deposit or loan, or borrow or raise money in such a manner as CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall think fit and to charge any part of the property of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR with repayment of the money so borrowed;
- (m) invest the moneys of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR not immediately required for the furtherance of the said objects in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such consents (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law;
- (n) recruit and train volunteers with relevant skills to carry out the objects of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR;
- (o) employ and pay any person (not being a member of the management committee) to supervise, organise and carry out the work of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR and make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of remuneration to employees;

- (p) encourage and organise co-operation between CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR and government agencies, local authorities, statutory bodies, education and training agencies and voluntary and community bodies in pursuit of the objects of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR;
- (q) establish or support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for any or all of the above objects;
- (r) do all such other lawful things as may be necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them;
- (s) To promote and organise co-operation in the achievement of the above objects and to that end to work in association with local authorities and voluntary organisations engaged in the furtherance of the above objects in the area of benefit.

#### 4. MEMBERSHIP

- 4.1 Membership of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall be open to the following, irrespective of political party, nationality, religion or political opinion:
  - 4.1.1 Voluntary or community organisations promoting the Irish language within the area of benefit, may upon application to and with the approval of the Committee be admitted as Group Members, and such approval shall not be unreasonably withheld;
  - 4.1.2 Individuals who would like to advance the aims of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR may apply for membership and become an associate member. Membership will not be refused unreasonably.
- 4.2.1 Group Members shall each be entitled to be represented at meetings of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR by a duly authorised representative with power to vote on behalf of the Group Member.
- 4.2.2 Associate members may attend meetings but they will not be entitled to vote.
- 4.3 The Committee shall fix the rate of annual subscription, shall keep records of membership, and shall have the right for good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member provided that the member concerned shall have the right to be heard by CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR before a decision is made.

#### 5. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 5.1 The Committee shall meet not less than 8 times a year and shall consist of not less than 4 representatives of Member Groups of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR, elected at an Annual General Meeting.
- 5.2 Nominations from full members of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR for membership of the Committee must be in writing, and must be in the hands of the Honorary Secretary of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR at least 7 days before the Annual General Meeting hereinafter mentioned.
- 5.3 Should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies, election shall be by secret ballot of the members of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR present and voting at an Annual General Meeting.
- 5.4 Should the number of nominations be less than the number of vacancies, further oral nominations may with the approval of the Annual General Meeting be invited from members present and voting at the said Annual General Meeting.

- 5.5 The Committee elected at an Annual General Meeting shall have the power to co-opt further members, who shall be representatives of Group Members or any other person or organisation as the Committee deems appropriate and who shall serve until the conclusion of the next following Annual General Meeting PROVIDED THAT the number of co-opted members shall not exceed one-third of the total membership of the Committee. Co-opted members shall have the right to vote.
- 5.6 The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, who shall be the Honorary Officers of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR, shall be representatives of Group Members of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR, and shall be elected annually by and from the members of the Committee at their first meeting following the Annual General Meeting. The office of Chairperson shall not be held by any one person for more than three consecutive years.
- 5.7 Any member of the Committee who fails to attend 3 consecutive Committee meetings without reasonable excuse shall lose her/his place on the Committee which may be filled by co-option in accordance with Clause 5.5 above.
- 5.8 The Trustees (if appointed) shall be notified of and shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Committee but without the power to vote.

## 6. FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- 6.1 The Committee may make such regulations or policies as they consider appropriate for the efficient conduct of the business of the Committee and CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR.
- 6.2 The Committee may appoint such staff as they consider necessary on such terms and conditions as they may determine.
- 6.3 The Committee may appoint such sub-committees, advisory groups or working parties of their own members and other persons as they may from time to time decide necessary for the carrying out of their work, and may determine their terms of reference, duration and composition. All such sub-committees shall make regular reports on their work to the Committee.
- 6.4 The proceedings of the Committee shall not be invalidated by any failure to elect or any defect in the election, appointment, co-options or qualification of any member.

## 7. CHAIRING MEETINGS

All meetings of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR, or of the Committee, or of any of its subcommittees shall be presided over by its Chairperson failing whom its Vice-Chairperson, if one has been appointed. If neither the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson are present, those present may elect one of their number to take the Chair. The Chairperson of any meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

## 8. FINANCE

- 8.1 All moneys raised by or on behalf of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall be applied to further the objects of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR and for no other purpose PROVIDED THAT nothing herein contained shall prevent the payment of legitimate out-of-pocket expenses to members of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR engaged upon the approved business of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR.
- 8.2 The Honorary Treasurer shall keep proper accounts of the finances of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR.

- 8.3 The financial year of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall run from 1 January to 31 December.
- 8.4 The accounts shall be submitted to an accountant or other independent person at least once a year. Such person shall be selected at the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.5 A statement of accounts for the last financial year shall be submitted by the Committee to the Annual General Meeting.
- 8.6 A bank account shall be opened in the name of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR with The Bank of Ireland, or with such other bank as the Committee shall from time to time decide. The Committee shall authorise in writing the Honorary Treasurer and 3 members of the Committee to sign cheques on behalf of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR. All cheques must be signed by not less than 2 of the 4 authorised signatories, including always the signature of the Honorary Treasurer.

9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

9.1 The Annual General Meeting of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall be held at such place and time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding Annual General Meeting) as the Committee shall determine.

9.2 At such Annual General Meeting the business shall include the following:

- 9.2.1 the election of members to serve on the Committee;
- 9.2.2 the appointment of an accountant or other independent person to examine the annual accounts;
- 9.2.3 the consideration of an Annual Report of the work done by or under the auspices of the Committee;
- 9.2.4 the consideration of the audited accounts;
- 9.2.5 the transaction of such other matters as may from time to time be considered necessary.

10. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETINGS

The Committee may at any time at its discretion and shall upon a requisition signed by not less than 4 members having the power to vote and giving reasons for the request, call a Special General Meeting of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR for the purpose of altering the constitution in accordance with Clause 12 hereof or of considering any matter which may be referred to them by the Committee or for any other purpose.

11. RULES OF PROCEDURE AT ALL MEETINGS

VOTING

11.1 Subject to the provisions of Clause 12 hereof all questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote thereat. In case of an equality of votes the Chairperson shall have a second or casting vote.

MINUTES

11.2 Minute books shall be kept by the Committee and all other subcommittees and the appropriate Secretary shall enter therein a record of all proceedings and resolutions.

### QUORUM

- 11.3 The quorum at General Meetings of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall be 10% of the voting members and at meetings of the Committee shall be 4 or such other number as the Committee may from time to time determine.

### STANDING ORDERS/RULES/POLICIES

- 11.4 The Committee shall have power to adopt and issue Standing Orders and/or Rules or Policies for CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR. Such Standing Orders and/or Rules or Policies shall come into operation immediately PROVIDED ALWAYS THAT they shall be subject to review by CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR in General Meeting and shall not be inconsistent with this constitution.

## 12. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 12.1 Any alterations to this Constitution shall receive the assent of not less than two-thirds of the members of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR present and voting at the Annual General Meeting or a meeting specially called for the purpose PROVIDED THAT notice of any such alteration shall have been received by the Honorary Secretary in writing not less than 21 clear days before the meeting at which the alteration is to be brought forward.
- 12.2 At least 14 clear days' notice in writing of the meeting setting forth the terms of the alteration to be proposed shall be sent by the Honorary Secretary to each member of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR PROVIDED FURTHER THAT no alteration shall be made which would cause CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR to cease to be a charity at law.

## 13. DISSOLUTION

- 13.1 If the Committee by a simple majority decide at any time that on the grounds of expense or otherwise it is necessary or advisable to dissolve CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR they shall call a meeting of all members of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR who have the power to vote of which meeting not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the Resolution to be proposed thereat) shall be given.
- 13.2 If such decision shall be confirmed by a simple majority of those present and voting at such meeting the Committee shall have power to dispose of any assets held by or in the name of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR.
- 13.3 Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR as the Committee may decide.

## 14. INDEMNITY

CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR shall indemnify and keep indemnified every officer, member, volunteer and employee of CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR from and against all claims, demands, actions and proceedings (and all costs and expenses in connection therewith or arising therefrom) made or brought against CONRADH NA GAEILGE BOIRCHE ÍOCHTAR in connection with its activities, the actions of its officers, members, volunteers or employees, or in connection with its property and equipment but this indemnity shall NOT extend to liabilities arising from willful and individual fraud, wrongdoing or wrongful omission on the part of the officer, member, volunteer or employee sought to be made liable. The Treasurer shall effect a policy of insurance in respect of this indemnity.

