**Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society**

**Constitution**

***Introduction***

The Denstone Players Amateur Dramatic Society evolved from the Village Review held in support of The Denstone Sports Trust in 1987. It has staged numerous plays and shows for the enjoyment of members and our audiences in the local community. A Young Players section was established in 2008 for children aged 8 to 16 years. However, due to a variety of reasons the society has ceased functioning but now wishes to re-launch its activities.

The informality of our organisation has been and remains, one of our strengths, but our success has bought assets and responsibilities that demand some written guidelines that all participants can understand.

This document sets out a framework of rules within which the members have agreed to work. It defines our aims and objectives, how we govern ourselves and our activities to achieve these and what would happen to our assets if the society ever folded.

***Aim***

The aim of The Denstone Players is to promote amateur theatre in the local community.

***Objectives***

* To present a variety of performances each year in Denstone Village Hall
* To provide opportunities for the community to experience live theatre elsewhere

***Membership***

Anyone in the local community may join the Denstone Players by participating in or assisting with performances in any capacity. New members are invited through advertisements and publicity.

There is a one off membership fee of £5. There will be no joining fee for Under 18’s. They should register as a temporary members.

All membership issues will be reviewed annually.

***Governance***

The Denstone Players shall hold an Annual General Meeting in the spring of each

year after 31st March, the close of the financial year. The agenda shall always

include as a minimum:

* Approval of the minutes of the previous AGM
* Matters arising from the previous AGM
* Election of Officers and the Committee
* Presentation and approval of the annual accounts
* Appointment of the Director(s) for the following year’s productions
* Review of the Denstone Players Child Protection Policy
* Any other business

***Officers***

The Officers of the society shall be:

Chair

Vice-Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Child Protection Officer

Health and Safety Officer

Publicity Officer

Representative on the Village Hall Committee

***The Committee***

The Committee shall consist of the Officers together with the current Directors and any members approved at the AGM. The Committee will meet when necessary with a quorum of 8 and have powers of co-option.

***Child Protection Policy***

Denstone Players recognises its duty of care under the Children and Young Persons

Act 1963, the Child (Performances) Regulations 1968, The Protection of

Children Act 1999 and the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000. The

society’s Child protection policy will be agreed and added to this constitution. The Directors and Producers of performances involving children, young persons and vulnerable adults are encouraged to submit to DBS checks.

***Finances***

The Denstone Players shall have a bank account requiring two signatures for

withdrawing money and paying bills. The signatories shall be the Chair, Vice Chair and the Treasurer but the Chair may authorise additional signatories with the bank.

The Denstone Players shall appoint an auditor for each new financial year.

The Treasurer shall prepare a balance sheet and a profit and loss account for

each year ending 31st March for audit and approval by the Annual General Meeting.

The Treasurer shall ensure that the society holds adequate insurance for Public Liability, Property and Money at all times.

The Treasurer shall advise the Committee on the state of the Denstone Players

finances at committee meetings.

***Dissolution of the Denstone Players***

In the event that the Denstone Players dissolves itself or in any other way ceases to

exist, all funds and other assets shall be transferred to The Tom Boden Memorial Sports Trust in Denstone.

Dated: Monday 22nd May 2015