

THE QUEERY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY GOVERNING DOCUMENT & CONSTITUTION

Adopted on 1 January 2024

NAME

The name of the Co-operative is: **The Queery**

Registered address: **46 George St, Brighton BN2 1RJ**

The Queery is a Co-operative Society registered on 25 January 2022 with the Financial Conduct Authority (registration 4879) under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Co-operative is to carry out its function as a co-operative and to abide by the internationally recognised values and principles of co-operative identity as defined by the International Co-operative Alliance.

OBJECTIVES

The objects of the Co-operative shall be

- To provide a sober, safer space for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual and queer-identifying community (herein LGBTQIA+) from all economic and cultural backgrounds to socialise, skill-share and meet
- To provide literature and services for the LGBTQIA+ community and distribute information about the community
- To provide a warm space for the LGBTQIA+ community during winter months.
- To provide an affordable, vegan café
- To provide events for the LGBTQIA+ community (eg. workshops, talks, classes, literary events and meet-ups)

POWERS

To further its objective, the Co-operative may do all such lawful things as may further the Co-operative's objects and may raise funds through membership, donation and grants for any purpose.

The Co-operative may not borrow money or enter into loan agreements.

MEMBERSHIP

The Co-operative shall consist initially of those persons who have signed this constitution. Thereafter the Co-operative may admit to membership any natural person who supports the Purpose and Objectives of the Co-operative.

There is only one class of membership and each paid-up member, including those on the board, supporters or non-users, carries one vote, equal in power to every other member's vote.

Removal of a member

A member may be expelled from membership by resolution of the Co-operative stating that it is in the best interests of the Co-operative that the membership is terminated.

MEETINGS

The Co-operative shall in each calendar year hold a general meeting of the members as its annual general meeting and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it.

The business of an annual general meeting shall include:

- (a) Consideration of accounts
- (b) Elections to the Board

The Co-operative shall ensure that, in addition to the annual general meeting, at least four other general meetings are held annually, to ensure that members are given the opportunity to participate in the decision-making process of the Co-operative and to ensure the Co-operative manages itself in accordance with the Co-operative's Purpose and Objectives.

Calling a general meeting

The Management Committee may convene a general meeting or the membership may, in writing, require the Management Committee to call a general meeting.

Notices

The Management Committee shall call all general meetings by giving 14 days' notice to members via their social media channel. All notices shall specify:

- The date, time and place of the meeting
- Instructions how to receive a link to the meeting online
- Instructions how to add items of business to the agenda

Quorum

No business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a minimum quorum of 5 members are in attendance, in-person or online.

Chairing general meetings

The Chairperson of the Co-operative shall facilitate general meetings. If they are absent or unwilling then Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer will chair the meeting.

DECISION-MAKING AT MEETINGS

Each member shall have one vote on any question to be decided in a general meeting.

Proxy voting is permitted via another Queery member.

In the case of an equality of votes, nobody shall not have a second or casting vote and the resolution shall be deemed to have been lost.

Resolutions

All decisions at general meetings shall be made by passing resolutions passed by a simple majority (51%) of votes cast.

MANAGING BOARD

The Co-operative shall have a managing Board comprising not less than three people.

The initial Board of the Co-operative until the first annual general meeting shall be those persons who have signed this constitution and such others as they may be voted in.

Only members of the Co-operative who are aged 16 years or more may serve on the Board. The Board shall be elected by and from the Co-operative's members.

Retirement Cycle

At every annual general meeting, all members of the Board shall stand down and all positions re elected.

Retiring members of the Board are eligible for re-election.

Positions may be filled interim and voted on at subsequent general meetings.

Powers and Duties of the Management Committee

The Board are responsible for the management of the Co-operative's business and shall operate the Co-operative in accordance with its constitution. The Board shall have the power to determine policies and procedures.

The Board shall not be entitled to sell or otherwise dispose of assets (in a single transaction or series of transactions) without the approval of the members by resolution.

Board Meetings

The Board will meet regularly for the dispatch of business and regulate their meetings as they see fit. The Board's communications via electronic means will be made available to any member upon request.

Questions arising at any meetings shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes the Board may choose to refer the matter to a general meeting of the members.

Expenses

The Co-operative does not pay expenses of any kind and all work undertaken for the Co-operative is voluntary.

Termination of Appointment

Voluntary resignation from the Board must be made in writing to the other members of the Board.

Any Board member can be removed from office by resolution of the Co-operative in a general meeting.

APPLICATION OF PROFITS

Profits of the Co-operative shall be applied in the following ways only:

- To create a general reserve for the continuation of the Co-operative
- To make payment for services the Co-operative offers the through its Purpose and Objectives

DISSOLUTION

The Co-operative is a common ownership enterprise. In the event of the Co-operative winding up, the assets of the Co-operative shall first be applied to satisfy its debts and liabilities. Any balance of assets remaining may not be distributed among the members but shall be transferred to some other common ownership co-operative.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

Registers

The Board shall keep an accurate register of:

- Members' names, email addresses and membership dates
- The names and email of Board members and dates they held office

Held securely in line with current data protection law.

Minutes

Minutes will be kept of all meetings, including names of the Board members present, decisions made and the reasons.

Accounts

The Board shall keep proper accounts, circulated at the AGM, giving a true and fair record of the state of the Co-operative's finances.

Borrowing

The Co-operative will not borrow money from any lender, individual or organisation.

Audit

The members may, by resolution, require that the financial records of the Co-operative for any financial year are scrutinised by an independent person (not a member of the Co-operative) in order to ascertain their accuracy.

Indemnity and Insurance

- Any member, Board member and Honorary Officer shall be indemnified out of the Co-operative's assets for any liability incurred in connection with their position, unless they have acted negligently or fraudulently.



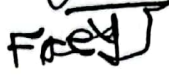

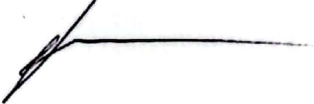


Official Documents

The Query does not have a common seal.

Investments

The Query will not invest funds in any other corporate bodies or local authority.

SIGNED

Board Position	Name	Signature	Date
Chair	M J GREY		10/1/24
Secretary	Ezra Hooker		10/01/24
Treasurer	FREY JAY		10/01/24
Cafe Coordinator			
Cafe Coordinator			
Bookshop Coordinator	Theodore Lord		10/1/24
Bookshop Coordinator			
Events Coordinator	RIVER GOWING		10/1/24
Events Coordinator			
Grants Coordinator	JANSUEED MASTER		1 JAN 2024
Community Engagement	Annie Brown		10/1/24
Community Engagement			