

**THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GORSEDD OF COR GAWR |
GORSEDD CÔR Y CEWRI**

- 1) The name of the organisation is **The Gorsedd of Cor Gawr or Gorsedd Côr y Cewri**, alternatively the **Bards of Cor Gawr or Beirdd Côr y Cewri**, which may be shortened in this document and elsewhere to **Cor Gawr**. The Gorsedd of Cor Gawr is a not-for-profit unincorporated association, formerly part of the British Druid Order (1997-2002) and the Druid Network (2002-2015), and now founded as a fully independent entity since 1st May 2015.
- 2) The purposes/aims for which this organisation is set up are:
 - a) To work at all times and with all parties within the tenets of 'honourable relationship' while recognising that clear, open non-confrontational communication is deeply embedded within the Druid tradition.
 - b) To work within the tenets and context of modern Druidry recognising the influence and practice of animism and shamanism in the practice of British native paganism and the Celtic heritage inherent in Druidry, while seeking to foster relationship and understanding between the practice of Druidry and other spiritual and religious practices,
 - c) To offer ritual celebrations at Stonehenge and other sacred sites. These will primarily be open Gorseddau and other ceremonies within the context of Stonehenge itself and the surrounding sacred landscape, but also be further afield. The celebrations will normally be at the traditional festival times, or when otherwise deemed appropriate.
 - d) To provide information on the principles and practice of Druidry for the benefit of all.
 - e) To inspire and facilitate the practice of Druidry in a spiritual, practical and meaningful way.
 - f) To offer events advancing the education of the public in Druidry, spirituality and other related topics. These events may include, but not be limited to, performing arts, guided walks, story-telling, poetry, music, history, ecology, conservation, plant lore, divination, conferences, camps, workshops, retreats, courses and similar events.
 - g) To provide celebrants to individuals, couples, groups and organisations for ceremonies such as rites of passage.
 - h) To work towards and promote a deeper sense of sacredness regarding Stonehenge, its wider landscape, as well as other sacred sites, while encouraging ethical standards of living and conduct together with conscious responsibility for the actions of Cor Gawr as an organisation and as individuals.
 - i) To promote religious harmony and diversity, interfaith dialogue and understanding.
 - j) To foster communication, understanding and co-operation with other Druid Orders, groups, groves and Gorseddau, as well as other appropriate organisations active within the Stonehenge landscape or where deemed appropriate further afield.
 - k) Any other legal activity the Council may decide furthers the purposes of Cor Gawr and the understanding and acceptance of Druidry in general
- 3) Ordinary (Bardic) Membership of the organisation shall be open to any person who is interested in carrying out the purposes/aims of the organisation.
 - a) Any person or other organisation who attends a ritual or any event held by Cor Gawr may consider themselves to be a Bardic Member if they so wish.
 - b) Those who wish to become Members without attending an organised ritual may do so by registering on the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr website, or by requesting to join the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr Facebook Group.
 - c) Honorary membership of Cor Gawr may be conferred on any individual or organisation that is deemed to have contributed significantly to Cor Gawr, or to the aims and objectives of Cor Gawr. Such honorary memberships may be conferred only by agreement of the Council of Elders of Cor Gawr.
 - d) There is no charge made to obtain Membership of Cor Gawr.
 - i) Ordinary (Bardic) Members may voluntarily pay a small annual fee.
 - ii) This financial contribution shall not give the member any additional rights over and above those of any other Ordinary (Bardic) Membership, other than those that may be agreed by the Council from time to time.
 - e) Ordinary (Bardic) members shall not hold a voting interest in Cor Gawr.

- f) All members may exercise their rights of membership only in the furtherance of the aims and objectives of Cor Gawr as set out in Clause 2).
 - g) Membership of the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr may be terminated at any time by the Lead Priest or Pencerdd where it is deemed that a member has behaved in such a way as to bring the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr or Druidry into disrepute, or in any way that conflicts with the aims and objectives of the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr as set out in clause 2).
 - i) Such termination may be subject to appeal by the member concerned or by another on their behalf. Such appeal will be heard by the Council of Elders at the next available Council meeting of Cor Gawr, and the decision reached (using the procedure defined in Clause 7)) shall be final.
- 4) The Gorsedd of Cor Gawr and all assets shall be managed and administered by the Lead Priest in conjunction with up to eight additional Priests, forming the Council.
- a) The Council shall have the following Officers:
 - i) A Lead Priest [Prifardd]
 - ii) A Pencerdd (the Priest leading the Gorsedd rites, elected annually at the AGM)
 - iii) A Treasurer
 - iv) A Scribe (the Secretary)
 - v) An IT Officer
 - vi) Any other Officer as defined under Clause 4) d).
 - b) One Council member may hold more than one post if it is deemed necessary.
 - c) The Council shall appoint Officers to the Council posts as detailed in clause 4) a), but only where a post is vacant, or where a new post is deemed necessary.
 - d) The Council, to ensure the efficient operation of Cor Gawr, may from time to time create other posts as deemed necessary by the Council.
 - e) No one may be appointed to the Council if he or she would be disqualified from acting under the provisions of Clause 8).
 - f) The minimum number of members of the Council shall at any time be no less than three.
 - g) If the number of Council members falls below the number specified in Clause 4) f) then the following actions shall be taken
 - i) If there are still Elders remaining on the Council they shall forthwith elect sufficient new Elders to make up the number specified in Clause 4) f) under the provisions of Clause 5) a)
 - ii) If the remaining Elders are unable for whatever reason to appoint replacement Elders from within the Ordinary (Bardic) members of Cor Gawr, then the remaining Elders must wind up the organisation under the provisions of Clause 20)
 - iii) Should there be no Elders remaining on the Council it is the prerogative of any Ordinary (Bardic) member or group of Ordinary (Bardic) members to call an Assembly of Bards of Cor Gawr, of no less than seven in number, giving no less than twenty-one days notice in writing by whatever means they consider appropriate to obtain the widest circulation to Ordinary (Bardic) members of Cor Gawr. The Assembly of Bards thus convened has only two powers. It can either elect the minimum number of Elders, as specified in Clause 4) f), to form a new Council, or, if the Assembly is unable for whatever reason to appoint that minimum number of Elders, then it must wind up the organisation under the provisions of Clause 20).
- 5) When new members of the Council of Elders are required through death, retirement, or resignation, or by the need to expand the Council, they shall be elected by the existing Council of Elders.
- a) The Council shall choose from the pool of Ordinary (Bardic) members additional or replacement Priests or Elders as deemed necessary, or those persons whose skills, at that time, will enhance and further the purposes of Cor Gawr.
 - b) In exceptional circumstances an Elder may be appointed or seconded on a temporary and time-limited basis, as defined at the time of appointment by the Council.
 - c) Any member chosen to serve as a Priest of Cor Gawr shall be considered to be an Elder.

- d) The total combined number of those serving on the Council of Elders shall be not less than the number specified in Clause 4) f) and no more than nine.
 - e) An Elder may not appoint anyone to act on his or her behalf at any meetings of the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr.
 - f) Those chosen and willing to act in an official capacity for Cor Gawr will be presented for acceptance at a meeting of the Council of Elders.
 - g) There is no time limit to how long an individual may serve as a member of the Council, or as Priest or Elder.
 - h) All Priests, Elders and Council Members will be advised of the legal and moral obligations of such membership prior to them taking up their post.
- 6) No member of the Council of Elders shall benefit from the work of the organisation other than as any Ordinary (Bardic) Member of the organisation might benefit, allowance being made however for out of pocket expenses when funds permit.
- 7) Cor Gawr is neither democratic nor autocratic. Decisions made within the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr are made using the principle of Honourable Relationship; this may be defined as honest, responsible and respectful interaction. Any position within the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr is one of responsibility not authority.
- a) Wherever possible, and following the principles of honesty, integrity, responsibility and trust, the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr will allow decisions to be made using a networked approach. Encouraging individual responsibility and inspiration Cor Gawr seeks to empower individuals without reference to committees to contact or strongly binding rules to follow.
 - i) If Priests, Elders or any Cor Gawr members have an idea, or wish to contribute in terms of time, skills or energy in whatever way they desire within the purposes, aims and ethics of Cor Gawr they need only present their proposal to the Council of Elders for a decision.
 - b) Whilst firmly stating that integrity has no need of rules, where more complex and difficult decisions need to be taken the following is one format that may be used to facilitate the decision process within general meetings.
 - i) Notice of meetings will include an agenda of proposals to be discussed at the meeting together with an invite for further proposals from members entitled to attend.
 - ii) All submitted proposals will be assessed by the Council of Elders to ensure their compliance with the purposes of the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr, as well as financial viability and legal compliance.
 - iii) If the Council rejects a proposal, then a clear explanation will be provided to the proposer and following discussion may be re-submitted in modified form.
 - iv) Proposals will be put to the meeting by the chair (Lead Priest) or nominated member who will then facilitate the discussion.
 - v) All members entitled to attend will be given time to state their views.
 - vi) If there is general acceptance the proposal will be formally ratified by the Council. On a simple matter this may be done before the close of the meeting.
 - vii) Matters requiring more careful consideration will be considered at some time after the close of the meeting and the outcome communicated to those who were entitled to attend.
 - viii) If the proposal is not generally accepted, then the person facilitating the discussion will accept further submissions. The proposal may be modified step by step in light of the discussion until agreement is reached or the proposal rejected. If it becomes clear that agreement cannot be reached within an allotted time, then the matter is put aside for discussion at a future date.
 - ix) In accordance with the tenets of honourable relationship, the Council should not refuse to ratify an accepted proposal without justifiable reason. A clear explanation of the reasons for refusal should be given.
 - x) At all times the chair will ensure that all reasonable means are employed to reach agreement.
 - c) The Scribe of the Council shall keep Minutes of its meetings.
- 8) A Council Member, Priest or Elder shall cease to hold office if he or she:

- a) ceases to be a member of the team of Priests of Cor Gawr (unless co-opted as an Elder under the terms of Clause 5) a).
 - b) Reaches the time-limit of any temporary secondment to the team of Elders as defined under Clause 5) b).
 - c) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs.
 - d) resigns as a Member of the Council of Elders by notice to the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr (but only if at least two Council Members will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect); or
 - e) is absent without the permission of, or notification to, the Council from all their meetings held within a period of six consecutive months and the Council resolve that his or her office be vacated.
 - f) dies.
- 9) The funds of the organisation shall be paid in to an account operated by the Council Treasurer. Any Member of the Council of Elders may request to scrutinize any and /or all transactions.
- a) The Treasurer shall operate a Paypal account in the name of the organisation in order to facilitate the receipt and use of donations and other online receipts and payments where these are more appropriately and efficiently managed through said account.
- 10) As a not-for-profit unincorporated association Cor Gawr has no legal requirement to keep or publish accounts. However, the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr shall keep accounts of its financial transactions. These accounts will be presented to members of the Council of Elders as soon as practicable at the end of each financial year – defined for the purposes of the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr as running from Samhain to Samhain (1st November – 31st October) annually. At the Annual General Meeting a Statement of Account shall be presented by the Treasurer and examined by the Council of Elders for approval at the AGM. The accounts can be submitted to an independent qualified third party for inspection should a majority of the Council so wish.
- 11) The Council will decide how many meetings it will hold a year, with two meetings a year as a minimum.
- a) Members of the Council of Elders shall be entitled to attend all meetings.
 - b) The number of members present to constitute a valid meeting shall be three members of the Council of Elders for the time being.
- 12) All meetings of the Gorsedd of Cor Gawr shall be chaired by the Lead Priest, unless
- a) The Lead Priest is absent from the meeting within 10 minutes of appointed time, in which case the Pencerdd will act as chair.
 - b) Another member of the Council or an Elder is appointed as chair by the Lead Priest.
 - c) If the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting the members of the Council present may appoint one of their number to chair the meeting.
- 13) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of the organisation of which 21 days notice shall be given to all members entitled to attend as defined under Clause 11a.
- 14) At the Annual General Meeting the Chair will present a report outlining the activities of the organisation in the previous year and how the funding of the organisation received has been used to carry out its purposes and aims.
- 15) Minutes of meetings shall be kept by the Scribe recording:
- a) appointments of Officials;
 - b) proceedings at meetings of Cor Gawr;
 - c) meetings of Cor Gawr officers, including:
 - i) the names of those officers present at the meeting;
 - ii) the decisions made at the meetings; and
 - iii) where appropriate the reasons for the decisions.

- 16) A General Meeting of the organisation may be called when
 - a) Any Member of the Council determines the need for such a meeting
 - b) a significant number of people as judged by the Council of Elders believe there should be a meeting.

- 17) A General meeting (but not the Annual General Meeting) may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the Council in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.
 - a) Any Council member or Elder participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by Council in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.
 - b) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

- 18) Any meeting shall be considered valid when three or more eligible members of the organisation are present at any meeting. If:
 - a) a quorum is not present within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting;
or
 - b) during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall be adjourned to such time and place as the Council shall determine.
 - c) The Council must reconvene the meeting and must give at least seven clear days' notice of the reconvened meeting stating the date, time and place of the meeting.
 - d) If no quorum is present at the reconvened meeting within fifteen minutes of the time specified for the start of the meeting the members present at that time shall constitute the quorum for that meeting.

- 19) The Constitution of the organisation may be altered when two thirds of eligible members present and voting at a general meeting pass a resolution. The resolution will be sent out with the invitation to attend the meeting. 21 days notice shall be given of such a meeting.

- 20) The organisation shall be considered dissolved if any of the following conditions are met
 - a) Membership of the Council falls below the minimum number defined under Clause 4) f), and measures taken under Clause 4) g) fail to elect new Elders to make up that minimum number.
 - b) The Council of Elders decides that the organisation should be dissolved.
 - i) In the case of Clause 20) b) being invoked the Council shall call a General Meeting of the Elders, giving twenty-one days notice.
 - ii) If the decision is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Council shall deem the organisation dissolved.
 - c) In the event of any of Clauses 20) a) or b) being invoked and confirmed then either:
 - i) Control of the organisation and its assets shall be offered to the British Druid Order, or, should they decline the offer
 - ii) The organisation shall be dissolved, and the Council shall pass any assets held by the organisation to a local like-minded body.