

## **Fitzpatrick Clan Society Constitution – Draft 5 June 2018**

### **Clan Society Name**

The name of the Society is the 'Fitzpatrick Clan Society' and is representative of all people with Fitzpatrick heritage or an interest in Fitzpatrick heritage; this includes Fitzpatrick surname variants.

### **Objects**

To promote, foster and facilitate Clan spirit, diversity, friendship and networking amongst Clan members.

To encourage and promote the study and preservation of the history, folklore, and traditions of Fitzpatricks.

To encourage and promote the study of the genetic genealogy of Fitzpatricks.

To provide support and resources to Clan members seeking to understand their Fitzpatrick roots and connections.

To provide opportunities for Clan members to participate in international and regional gatherings where Clan members could reasonably benefit from such participation.

### **Membership**

We warmly embrace all who have connections to the Fitzpatrick surname.

Membership is open to each and every individual whose heritage is of the Clan or who has an interest in the heritage of the Clan.

Individuals may only apply for membership once and may not apply on behalf of others.

Membership is free and there is no cost of benefits offered by the Fitzpatrick Clan Society.

### **Officers**

There will be five elected Officers of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society.

In order to provide balance within the Clan Executive, four Officers shall come from members who identify as follows:

One Officer from the Fitzpatricks of Ossory.

One Officer from the Fitzpatricks of Bréifne.

One Officer from the Fitzpatricks of Iveagh.

One Officer from the Fitzpatricks who are haplotype FGC11134.

In addition, one Officer shall come from members who do not identify with one of the four groups named above.

The five Officers shall form the Fitzpatrick Clan Society Executive Committee.

The term of elected Officers shall be three years. If any of the Officer positions are vacated during their term they shall be re-filled following ballot by Clan members.

### **Executive Committee**

The five Officers of the Executive Committee shall elect, by majority, a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Secretary. If a majority decision cannot be reached, appointment shall be made by ballot among the Clan membership.

The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings or, if they are absent, the Vice-Chairperson shall preside.

The Executive Committee may appoint Regional Commissioners as they see fit.

The Executive Committee may award Honorary membership of the Clan Society to people who are not Fitzpatricks, but have contributed greatly to Fitzpatrick research.

### **Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall meet quarterly.

The Quorum for Executive Committee meetings is three.

A Clan gathering shall be organised once every three years.

### **Amendments**

The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority of Clan members who choose to participate in any amendment ballot.

Members shall be advised of any ballot on the amendment of the Constitution a minimum of one month prior.

### **Addendum – Declaration of the Clan Officers**

In accord with the Clans of Ireland Code of Practice, Fitzpatrick Clan Society Officers will declare that:

- Fitzpatrick Clan Society membership is open to each and every individual whose heritage is of the Clan or who has an interest in the heritage of the Clan, with no restrictions as to race, religion or gender.
- The officers of the Fitzpatrick Clan Society are democratically elected by a majority of the membership by ballot every three years.
- We will hold periodic Fitzpatrick Clan Society Meetings.
- We will abide by the Code of Practice and Articles of the Clans of Ireland.
- All activities of the registered Fitzpatrick Clan Society are governed by the law of the land.

- We undertake to provide, free of charge, to Clans of Ireland library, one copy of all of our publications.
- We accept our responsibility to ensure that all Fitzpatrick Clan Society Officers act in a professional manner and refrain from any words or actions that might bring the Fitzpatrick Clan Society or Clans of Ireland into disrepute.