

## **Article I – Sûza**

### *1. Name*

- a. The full name of this nation shall be the Free Shire of Sûza.
  - i. Shortened variants of the above name include The Shire and Sûza

### *2. Territory*

- a. The territory of Sûza shall be defined by its borders, as established in the Thain's Decrees or Rulings of the Moot.
- b. The territory of Sûza shall be made up of four Farthings. The Northfarthing, Eastfarthing, Southfarthing and Westfarthing. Within each farthing shall be Folklands.
  - i. Each Folkland is the residency of one or more Sûzan citizens, and shall be marked on the map of the Shire.
- c. All those residing within Sûzan territory are to be subject to The Rules.

### *3. Sovereignty*

- a. The Free Shire of Sûza claims full de jure sovereignty and right to self-governance.
- b. While located geographically within the United Kingdom and subject to its laws under international law, Sûza maintains autonomous governance and the right to self-determination within its community.

## **Article II – Citizens**

### *1. Definition of Citizenship*

- a. Citizenship of the Free Shire of Sûza is hereby conferred upon any person who:
  - i. Has attained the age of thirteen years or older. However there is no age requirement if the person is related to one or more incumbent citizens and can prove this by testimony of said other citizen.
  - ii. Is prepared to uphold The Rules and the Constitution and bring good will to the Shire.
  - iii. Has applied via the official citizenship process and has had their application accepted by the Mayor. In the absence of the Mayor, the responsibility shall fall to the Deputy Mayor.

### *2. Rights and Privileges of Citizens*

- a. All Sûzan citizens have the right to:
  - i. Maintain their personal privacy; no information on citizens' names, ages, geographical whereabouts or personal lives will be shared without their due consent. However, the whereabouts of each citizen will have to be made known to the Mayor for the purposes of mapping the Shire.
  - ii. Take a new, 'Hobbit' name; and to maintain all elements of their cultural, political and religious identity without being unjustly discriminated against.
  - iii. Maintain ownership of their land after it has been proclaimed territory of the Shire.
  - iv. Make any alterations they wish to their land, so long as it comes within the laws set out in this Constitution and The Rules.
  - v. Due process and fair trials by the Shirriffs when investigating wrongdoing in the Shire.
  - vi. Participate in all community events, fairs and other gatherings.
  - vii. Attend the Moot and vote in all the decisions.
- b. All Sûzan citizens may if they so wish:

- i. Hold public office among the Watch.
  - ii. Put themselves forward for election in the role of Mayor.
- 3. *Application for Citizenship*
  - a. To apply for citizenship, one must fill out the appropriate google form and submit it.
  - b. The duty of reviewing citizenship applications shall fall to the Mayor of Sûza.
    - i. Applications should be rejected only if the required information is missing or appears untruthful.

### **Article III – The Moot**

- 1. *Composition of the Moot*
  - a. The Moot shall consist of all the citizens of Sûza who attend on the decided Moot days.
    - i. Attendance is not mandatory, however if a citizen cannot attend the Moot, they may send a message to the Thain noting their absence.
  - b. The Moot shall be presided over by the Thain, who chairs all meetings.
- 2. *Powers of the Moot*
  - a. The Moot may:
    - i. Propose, debate, amend, and enact additions to The Rules.
    - ii. Approve appointments to public office, including Mayor and Watch positions
    - iii. Amend the Constitution by supermajority vote (two thirds of citizens vote in favour).
    - iv. Veto the Thain’s Decrees by majority vote within two Moot Sessions of the Decree’s issuance.
    - v. Vote on declarations of grants, honours, or civic measures
    - vi. Approve the national budget, minting, or treasury measures
  - b. The Moot may not:
    - i. Act contrary to this Constitution.
    - ii. Remove the Thain from office – except by unanimous vote.
- 3. *Meetings of the Moot*
  - a. The Moot shall convene at least once per Season (every three months).
    - i. At each meeting the time and date of the following Moot Session must be decided.
  - b. The Moot shall be held over Zoom or similar video calling platform, so that all citizens may attend if they wish.
  - c. The Thain may call an Especial Moot outside of the usual meeting calendar to discuss a specific issue. If they do so, they must issue summons at least 5 days in advance.
- 4. *Voting Procedure*
  - a. Every citizen in attendance shall have one vote.
  - b. Decisions of the Moot shall pass via a simple majority vote of attendees unless otherwise stated.
  - c. All votes are to be recorded with the citizen’s name in the official minutes of the Moot Session.
- 5. *Records, Transparency and Petition*
  - a. The Thain or their appointed Moot Clerk shall record minutes of every Moot.
  - b. The minutes of all Moot Sessions are to be published for public viewing within seven days of the session.

- c. Any citizen not attending the Moot may write a Petition to the Thain asking for a topic to be discussed during the next session. The subject of the Petition must then be reviewed by the Moot.

#### **Article IV – The Thain**

- 1. *Role and Status*
  - a. The Thain shall be the Head of State of the Free Shire of Sûza.
  - b. The Thain shall serve as the Chair of the Moot.
  - c. The Thain may never stand for election to the role of Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- 2. *Powers of the Thain*
  - a. The Thain may call a Sûza-muster, this is a gathering of all the Citizens with makeshift weapons to defend the country in times of need.
  - b. The Thain may call an Especial Moot outside of the usual meeting calendar to discuss a specific issue. If they do so, they must issue summons at least 5 days in advance.
- 3. *Succession*
  - a. The role of Thain is hereditary. Upon the passing or resignation of the Thain, his named heir shall take over the role. If the Thain did not name a successor, they will be succeeded by their closest living relative who is also a Sûzan citizen.

#### **Article V – The Mayor**

- 1. *Role and Status*
  - a. The Mayor shall be responsible for reviewing and approving citizenship applications to the Shire.
  - b. The Mayor shall serve as Vice-Chair of the Moot.
- 2. *Powers of the Mayor*
  - a. The Mayor may issue Grants of Merit – with the approval of the Moot – to help fund community initiatives, projects and other areas of need within Sûza.
    - i. These may be issued within the Grant budget allocated in the Autumn Moot of each year.
  - b. The Mayor may issue Decrees, these are additions to The Rules that do not need the approval of the Moot to be passed. However the Moot may veto the Decrees at a later date via a simple majority vote.
- 3. *Election and Deputation*
  - a. The Mayor is to be elected every year upon the First of Lithe.
  - b. Any citizen above the age of 13 may run for the office of Mayor.
  - c. The single candidate who receives the most votes will take up the office.
    - i. The candidate with second most votes shall be appointed Deputy Mayor.
    - ii. There is to be no limit to the amount of terms a Mayor may serve.
  - d. Should the Mayor be unable to fulfill duties for longer than a fortnight, the Deputy Mayor shall take over office until they return.

#### **Article VI – The Watch**

- 1. *The First Shirriff*
  - a. The Watch shall be led by the First Shirriff.

- b. The office of First Shirriff shall by default be held by the Mayor, unless they delegate the role by public notice to another qualified member of the Watch.
  - c. The First Shirriff is responsible for oversight, training, reporting, and organisation of all serving Shirriffs and Bounders.
  - d. The First Shirriff must produce an annual Watch Report of all notable occurrences and changes to the Shire during that year. This report must be presented at the Winter Moot of each year.
2. *The Shirriffs*
- a. All Shirriffs are to be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the Moot.
  - b. The role of the Shirriffs is to ensure that no citizens are acting in a manner that goes against this Constitution or The Rules.
  - c. Citizens may apply to become a Shirriff by contacting the Mayor by any means and requesting to join. The Mayor may take proceedings from there as they deem fit.
  - d. There may never be more than three Shirriffs serving in each Farthing and no more than twelve in all of Sûza.
3. *The Bounders*
- a. All Bounders are to be appointed by the Mayor, subject to the approval of the Moot.
  - b. The role of the Bounders is to keep watch on the borders and lands of Sûza, they must then log their observances and deliver them to the First Shirriff.
  - c. There is no maximum number of Bounders, they may vary according to need.
  - d. Citizens may apply to become a Bounder by contacting the Mayor by any means and requesting to join. The Mayor may take proceedings from there as they deem fit.
4. *Duties and Restrictions*
- a. Members of the Watch shall:
    - i. Report civil disputes or infractions to the Mayor.
    - ii. Assist in the organisation and supervision of public events.
    - iii. Serve the public with kindness, discretion, and fairness.
  - b. Members of the watch may not:
    - i. Impose fines
    - ii. Remove or damage property
    - iii. Act beyond The Rules in any circumstance without written Moot instruction.

## **Article VII – Law and The Rules**

1. *The Rules*
- a. The Rules are to be the collective body of all legislation issued by the Moot and the Mayor.
  - b. The Rules are not fixed and may be amended by the Moot at any time.
  - c. None of The Rules may act against this Constitution.
2. *Law and Judgement*
- a. Any Rule-breaking seen by the Shirriffs or Bounders is to be brought before the Moot at the next session.
  - b. The Moot will then review all evidence for and against the Rule-breaker and use this to come to a decision about what ought to be done.
3. *Punishment*
- a. Punishments must be unanimously agreed upon by the Moot, Mayor and Thain.
  - b. No citizen may be jailed.
  - c. No citizen may be killed.

- d. No citizen may be fined more than the equivalent of £30.
- e. The cardinal punishment in Sûza is to be expelled from the Shire and revokal of citizenship.
- f. If a Shirriff or Bounder is found guilty of Rule-breaking they shall be removed from their post.

## **Article VIII – The Reckoning of Date and Time**

### *1. Sûzan Reckoning*

- a. Sûzan Reckoning will follow the calendar of the Shire Reckoning established by Professor John Ronald Reul Tolkien.
  - i. However, Sûzan Reckoning designates the year 2025 Anno Domini as Year 1, marking the founding of the Free Shire of Sûza.

### *2. Sûza Standard Time*

- a. Sûza Standard Time shall be abbreviated to SST.
- b. It shall be equivalent to GMT+00:15.
- c. All official times on Moot Minutes, Mayor's Decrees and signatures shall be marked using SST.

## **Article IX – Amending The Constitution**

### *1. Amendment Process*

- a. Any citizen attending Moot may suggest an amendment to the Constitution.
- b. The amendment may then be debated and properly written.
- c. The amendment may only be implemented if there is a unanimous Moot vote in favour of the change.

Signed this day, 12th Afterlithe S.R. 1 at 14:27 (SST) by

*Wilcome Greenhand*

**Thain of the Free Shire of Sûza**