

# Our Governance Structure

**Constitution** - The Royal African Society is a registered charity governed by a Royal Charter and Bye-laws, which were amended and approved by the Privy Council in November 2010.

**Royal Patronage** - Our Royal Patron is **H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge**, who succeeded The Queen in January 2017.

**Membership** - There are different types of membership: Individual, Student, Corporate and Honorary Life Members. Corporate members exercise their membership rights by means of nominated individuals.

**Council Members (Trustees)** - The Society's members elect the Chair of the Society, the Honorary Treasurer and the other 15 Council members – with the exception of up to 4 co-opted members and the Editors of African Affairs (who are Council members ex officio). The Society's 3 Vice-Chairs are chosen by the Council itself. The Council is the ultimate authority controlling 'the affairs and property of the Society'. A term of Council membership runs for 3 years, so one third of elected members retire or stand for re-election every year at the Society's AGM. The Society's Council currently meets twice a year - in April (followed by the AGM) and October. Five members are a quorum.

**The Executive Committee** - Exco acts under powers delegated to it by Council and consists of the Chair, Vice-Chairs, Honorary Treasurer, and up to three other members appointed by the Council. It currently meets twice a year - in January and July. Three Exco members are a quorum.

**Management & Staff** - The only two staff posts provided for in the Society's Bye-laws are the Director (Dr Nicholas Westcott) and Secretary (Sheila Ruiz, whose formal title is Deputy Director), both of whom are appointed by Council. At present, other staff posts include: Fundraising Manager (Caitlin Pearson), Administrative Manager (Lizzie Orekoya), Membership Administrator (Mel Laccay), African Arguments Editor (James Wan), Africa APPG Coordinator (Hetty Bailey), Corporate & Public Events Manager (Hoda Dahir), Education Programme Manager (Joanna Brown), Africa Writes Producer (Marcelle Akita) and Film Africa Travel Grants Coordinator (Dina Selim).

