

BRAUNSTON CANAL SOCIETY (BCS)

CONSTITUTION (2024)

The Braunston Canal Society is a group of volunteers who work in close association with the Canal & River Trust (the Trust)). The Trust authorises all work undertaken by the Society, and provides the necessary training, equipment and other resources required for the various tasks undertaken by the group. Such tasks may include:

- lock painting/maintenance
- vegetation control
- towpath restoration
- infrastructure restoration

The Trust provides full insurance cover and volunteers are expected to follow the required health and safety code. In addition, BCS has its own Public Liability Insurance, together with 3rd party insurance when using the leased workboat 'Skippy 2 Sheds'.

AIMS

- To maintain and improve the canal infrastructure within our adopted area (from Humphris Bridge 89 and Ivy Bridge 98 to the western portal of Braunston Tunnel).
- To provide a safe and attractive environment for canal users (boaters/walkers/cyclists/anglers etc.)
- To encourage positive social relationships and to promote a general feeling of well-being for all canal users - including members of the local village community and members of the Society.
- To foster and promote an interest in the history and nature of the canal system.

MEMBERSHIP

- Membership is open to anyone who is 18 years or older.
- Junior Membership is open to anyone between the ages of 14 years and 17 years. Junior Members must be accompanied by a responsible adult (18 years or older).
(A number of the tasks undertaken by BCS members may be inappropriate/unsuitable for children under the age of 14 years. However, the Committee may allow their involvement in certain circumstances; each application will be considered by the Committee on an individual basis.)

- Members are expected to provide contact details to the Membership Secretary.
- Members would normally be expected to inform the Membership Secretary of their intention to attend a work party session so that the resources required for the task can be prepared.
- There is no membership fee; however, donations to the society are welcome.
- Members may resign from the society at any time by writing an email to the Membership Secretary.
- Any offensive behaviour (including racist, sexist or inflammatory remarks) or any unsafe behaviour will not be permitted. Depending on the nature of the offence, the offender would in the first instance be expected to apologise where appropriate and/or show an awareness of the health and safety issues associated with their conduct. In cases where there is a failure to modify future conduct, or where severe breaches of behaviour are concerned, the member will be asked to leave the group.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Braunston Canal Society will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, sexuality, disability, religious or political belief, or marital status.

OFFICERS and COMMITTEE

- The business of the society will be carried out by a committee elected at the AGM.
- The Committee will meet as necessary and not less than 4 times each year.
- The Committee will consist of a minimum of 4 officers/members and include:
 1. Chair
 2. Vice-Chair/Membership Secretary
 3. Treasurer (responsible for maintaining accounts)
 4. Secretary
- Up to 2 additional members may be co-opted onto the Committee at the discretion of the Committee.
- In the event of an officer standing down during the year, a replacement will be co-opted until an election takes place at the next AGM.

MEETINGS

1. AGM

- An Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held within fifteen months of the previous AGM.
- All members will be notified by email at least 4 weeks before the date of the AGM, giving the venue, date, time and any documentation for consideration.
- Nominations for the Committee may be made to the Secretary at least 2 weeks before the AGM.
- All members will be notified by email 2 weeks before the date of the AGM giving notice of all proposals and nominations received.
- The quorum for the AGM will be 25% of the membership.
- The Committee will present a report of the work of BCS over the year.
- The Committee will present the accounts summary for the previous year during the AGM.
- The Officers/Committee for the following year will be elected at each AGM.
- Any proposals given to the Secretary at least 2 weeks in advance of the AGM will be discussed during the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Committee meetings will be held when requested by any member of the committee. These may be online “virtual” meetings or face to face.
- The quorum for Committee meetings is 3 Committee members.
- In the event of a consensus not being achieved, an additional casting vote will be taken by the Chair.

FINANCES

An account will be maintained on behalf of Braunston Canal Society at a bank agreed by the Committee. Four cheque signatories will be nominated by the Committee (one to be the Treasurer). The signatories must not be related nor members of the same household.

- All payments will be signed by 2 of the signatories:
 1. For cheque payments, the signatories will sign the cheque.
 2. For other payments (such as BACS payments, cash withdrawals, debit card payments or cash payments), a requisition note will be signed by 2 signatories, and held by the treasurer.
- Records of income and expenditure will be maintained by the Treasurer and a financial statement given at the AGM.
- All money raised by or on behalf of BCS is only to be used to further the aims of the group.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- Amendments to the constitution may only be made at the AGM.
- Any proposal to amend the constitution must be given to the Secretary by email at least 2 weeks prior to the AGM. The proposal will then be circulated to members 2 weeks prior to the AGM.
- Any proposal to amend the constitution will require a two-thirds majority of those present and who are entitled to vote.


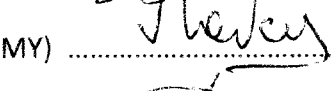
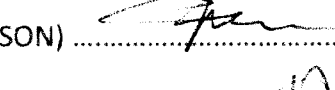
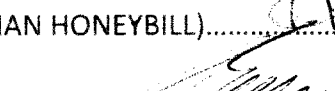

DISSOLUTION

If a meeting, by simple majority, decides that it is necessary to close down the group, it may call a Special General Meeting to do so. The sole business of this meeting will be to dissolve the group.

If it is agreed to dissolve the group, all remaining money and other assets, once outstanding debts have been paid, will be donated to the local canal association(s) (to be decided at the meeting).

SIGNATURES FOR CONSTITUTION

This constitution was agreed by the Committee on 20TH MARCH 24

- 1. Chair / Treasurer (MIKE GUNN) 
- 2. Vice-Chair / Secretary (VINCE LARAMY) 
- 3. Membership Secretary (CLIVE JOYNSON) 
- 4. CRT liaison / Heritage Advisor (ADRIAN HONEYBILL) 
- 5. Health & Safety Advisor (ALLAN SPENCE) 

CONTACT DETAILS

braunstoncanalsociety@gmail.com