

**BRISTOL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY**  
FOUNDED 1862 (Registered Charity No. 235494)

**RULES**

**Note** These rules are subordinate to the Constitution, which is the Charity Commission standard constitution **GD3**.

**1 NAME**

The name of the Society shall be the BRISTOL NATURALISTS' SOCIETY.

**2 OBJECTS**

The objects of the Society shall be:-

- (a) The promotion of education and research into natural history including geology with special reference to the Bristol District and
- (b) The promotion of the conservation of the British fauna and flora and the protection of geological and physiographical sites.

**3 PRIORITIES**

The society's priority is to study and record the natural history of the greater Bristol region for the benefit and education of members and the general public. It will promote understanding through its website, library, journals, bulletins, other publications, and indoor and field meetings. It will liaise with all other environmental and natural history bodies, and ensure that its historical and current records are available for conservation, research, monitoring, education and general information

**4 MEMBERSHIP**

a) The following are the classes of membership:-

- (i) **Full members.**
- (ii) **Honorary members** - being distinguished scientists or special benefactors of the Society who on the nomination of Council announced at the Annual General Meeting are so elected. Such members do not pay an annual subscription and are entitled to all the privileges of full membership.
- (iii). **Family members** - members of the family of an honorary or full member who live at the same address as the said member may become members of the Society on payment of a reduced subscription: such family members do not receive copies of the Society's Proceedings and bulletins.
- (iv) **Corresponding members** - members residing outside a radius of 20 miles from the City Centre of Bristol may choose such membership at a reduced subscription: such members do not receive the Society's bulletins.
- (v) **Student members** – persons over 18 in full time education are eligible.

**b) Members' privileges.**

Each member of the Society whose current subscription has been paid and each honorary member is entitled to:-

- (i) Receive a copy of all the Society's publications (except as provided under Rules 4a iii and 4a iv)
- (ii) Attend all meetings of the Society and its Sections, to vote in person, and to introduce visitors. The children of members are welcome to meetings if accompanied by a parent.
- (iii) Have access to the Society's Library for borrowing or reference in accordance with arrangements laid down by the Council.
- (iv) All members of the society have the right to attend Council meetings, where they may speak but not vote. In particular members seeking grants are encouraged to present their case to Council.

**5 AFFILIATION**

Other societies or organisations may seek affiliation with the Society, or establish a working agreement with it, on application to the Council of the Society.

**6 MANAGEMENT**

The management of the Society will be by a Council consisting of :-

- a) the principal officers of the Society, being a President, a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as may be elected.
- b) One representative of each Section.
- c) The most recent past Chairman for the first year of a new Chairman.
- d) Up to five additional members.

Note on Trustees. All members of Council are regarded as the Trustees of the charity by the Charity Commission.

**Qualifications of councillors.** Qualifications of Councillors: A person must be a member of the BNS and willing to serve.. The President shall be elected to serve for periods of three years. All other members of Council serve for one year but can be nominated for re-election annually .

**7. POWERS OF COUNCIL .**

Council shall:-

- a) Elect a Chairman at the first council meeting following the AGM
- b) Co-opt members to Council until the following AGM.
- c) Appoint Committees and working parties.
- d) Regulate the procedures of council subject to these rules.
- e) Decide subscription rates.
- f) Propose candidates for Honorary membership.
- h) Create and disband Sections.
- i) Call a Special General Meeting if required by Council or if requested by twenty Society members. Such a meeting shall follow the same procedures, as appropriate, as an Annual General Meeting.
- j) Establish Rules for the use of the Library.
- k) Council's decision on any difference of opinion about the interpretation of the Rules or Constitution, or matters not provided for in the Rules or Constitution, shall be binding.

## **8 RESPONSIBILITIES OF COUNCIL**

- a) Council shall meet not less than four times a year.
- b) The Quorum of Council shall be one third of its membership but not less than six members.
- c) Council shall ensure that accurate minutes are kept of all its meetings, and that sections and committees keep minutes and send a copy promptly to the secretary. The Secretary should ensure that Minutes are archived in the Library.
- d) Members of Council may not have a personal interest in the financial affairs of the society.
- e) A Special Council Meeting may be called if required by not less than five Council members petitioning the Secretary.

## **9. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

An Annual General Meeting of members of the Society shall be held in March or April in every year to transact the following business:-

- (a) Receive and, if approved, adopt annual reports and a statement of the accounts to the end of the last preceding financial year.
- (b) Elect the officers and members of Council, other than Section officers.
- (d) To appoint an Examiner who may be a member of the Society but shall not be a member of Council,
- (e) Deal with any special matter which Council desires to bring before the members and to receive suggestions from members for consideration by Council. Twenty members shall form a quorum.

The procedure for the election of officers and Council members, other than Section officers. Nominations for each office and ordinary membership of Council and the said Committees may be made by Council or by any two members of the Society. If made by any two members of the Society, such nomination shall be in writing to the Secretary not later than the first day of January in any year. At least ten days before the Annual General Meeting Council shall circulate a list of all nominations made as aforesaid to all the members of the Society resident in the British Isles. If more than one member is nominated to serve in a particular office or if the number of nominations to ordinary membership of Council exceeds five, a ballot shall be held at the Annual General Meeting in such manner and under such conditions as the President may determine. Should an insufficient number of nominations be received before the Annual General Meeting, Council shall have the power to make the remaining nominations at the Annual General Meeting.

## **10. THE ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN.**

- a) The President, when present, may take the chair at all meetings of the Society.
- b) The Chairman, when present, may take the chair at all meetings of Council. The Chairman shall be ex-officio member of all working parties and committees of the Society and its Sections.

## **11 SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- a) The rates of annual subscription for the various classes of membership shall be amounts decided from time to time by Council. All subscriptions shall become payable on the 1st day of January.
- b) The annual subscription of a member who first joins the Society on or after the 1st day of October in any year shall extend to the period ending on the 31st day of December of the following year.
- c) A member wishing to resign should inform the Membership Secretary in writing before January 1st. Council shall have power to end the membership of any member whose subscription is still in arrears on the 31st day of May in any year.

## **12 SECTIONS**

A Section shall be formed, if, on the written request of not less than twenty members, Council shall decide that it is desirable. Each Section shall elect annually its own officers including a President and Secretary. Council shall not be held liable for any Section expenditure without its previous sanction being obtained. Sections shall observe and act in conformity with any directions given by Council from time to time. If a Section is disbanded all money, property, records and papers in its control shall thereafter be used as directed by Council.

Approved at AGM

6<sup>th</sup> March 2013