

Brigstowe Village Band – Constitution Adopted (16/10/2022)

1. **Name:** The Non-Profit Organisation shall be called Brigstowe Village Band (BVB)
2. **Purpose:** BVB aims
 - a) to provide an opportunity for musicians in the wider Bristol area to play in a group which emulates a traditional village or town band of the time of Thomas Hardy,
 - b) to enable band members to achieve a standard of playing that will enable the band to perform in public,
 - c) to bring to audiences a programme that reflects, but is not limited to, the period and locality of Hardy's work.
3. **Membership:** BVB fully subscribe to equal opportunities. We do not hold auditions and welcome applications from players of acoustic instruments irrespective of standard of musicianship.
 - a) Membership will be granted at the discretion of the Steering Group (committee) subject to
 - the availability of spaces in the band,
 - the suitability of the instrument for the band's repertoire
 - the current balance of instruments in the band.
 - b) Minors are welcome as members if accompanied by a responsible adult.
 - c) Membership is conditional on members behaving at all times in a respectful and collegiate way.
 - d) Members' records are held securely in compliance with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
 - e) Members agree to pay subscriptions at a level set by a General Meeting (GM).
 - f) Communication with members is performed predominantly by email.
4. **Governance:** BVB is a democratic organisation.
 - a) The decision making power resides with General Meetings, where each active member has one vote. Decisions are made by simple majority, subject to a quorum of more than a third of the membership. Votes by letter, text or email are acceptable.
 - b) There will be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) at one of the autumn rehearsals. At this meeting the Steering Group (see 4d)) and the Band's officers will be elected, and the accounts will be presented for ratification. Given that sufficient notice is given for inclusion in the agenda, other issues will be discussed as well.
 - c) The Steering Group or a group of five or more individual members can also call an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss matters of immediate concern. Any GM can approve changes to the constitution
 - d) Day-to-day running of the band is delegated to the Steering Group (SG) which consists of ideally at least five members, three of whom are officers in the essential posts of Chairperson (Gaffer), Secretary (Scribe) and Treasurer (Bagman). The SG makes decisions by simple majority, subject to a quorum of three SG members voting.
 - e) The SG liaises with the Musical Director (MD), who is not a member of the SG, but operates under a contractual agreement. In partnership with the SG, the MD is responsible for the

musical development of the band, the augmentation of its repertoire and the honing of the band's performance skills.

- f) The SG can co-opt additional non-voting members, or delegate specific tasks or projects to individuals or groups at any time, provided that the decision-making power remains with the democratically elected members of the SG.
5. **Dissolution:** The dissolution of the band can only be decided by a GM. After discharging all financial obligations, any remaining funds are to be distributed to charitable organisations connected to supporting music in the community, as suggested by members of the SG and voted on by the general membership, with the treasurer reporting back to members. Once adopted, this paragraph of the constitution cannot be changed by vote at a GM.