

Rule change proposals - Belfry Repairs Fund

Rule 3 - Trustees

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
3 (first paragraph)	...Central Committee...	...Management Committee...	Terminology change (see Association Rules).
3 (second paragraph)	The Trustees shall comply with the requirements of the Charities Acts 1960, 1992, 1993, any subsequent amendments and these Rules.	The Trustees shall comply with these rules and, in precedence, the requirements of any UK laws concerning charities, including the Charities Act 2011, Charities (Protection & Social Investment) Act 2016 and Charities Act 2022, and any subsequent amendments.	Updating the statutory references. Noting that changes in the law concerning charities which are at odds with these rules will take priority over them.

Rule 6 - Management

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
6 (first paragraph)	The Fund shall be administered by the Trustees. They shall have the power to operate bank accounts in the name of the Fund and to authorise any two of three nominated Trustees to sign cheques.	The Fund shall be administered by the Trustees. They shall have the power to operate bank accounts in the name of the Fund and to authorise any two of three nominated Trustees to sign cheques and make electronic payments.	Adds the requirement for two approvers in respect of electronic banking payments.

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - BRF Rules

Rule 7 - Officers

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
7(i)	...He/she...	...The Clerk...	Consistency in terminology.
7(ii)	...He/she...	...The Treasurer...	Consistency in terminology.
7 (final paragraph)	The Treasurer shall present at the first meeting of the Trustees in each year, an examined statement of accounts made up to the previous 31st December.	The Treasurer shall present at a meeting of the Trustees in each year prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Association, an examined statement of accounts made up to the previous 31st December.	Removes the requirement for this to be at the first meeting of the year, so long as it happens at a meeting before the AGM. This is because the accounts may not be ready at the first meeting if there is other business to be transacted.

Rule 8 - Meetings

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
8(i)	The Clerk to the Trustees shall from time to time, as instructed by the Trustees or as he/she considers necessary, convene meetings of the Trustees to consider business connected with the Fund, provided that there shall be at least one meeting each year normally on or about the second Saturday in February.	The Clerk to the Trustees shall from time to time, as instructed by the Trustees or as the Clerk considers necessary, convene meetings of the Trustees to consider business connected with the Fund, provided that there shall be at least one meeting each year.	Gender neutral terminology. Removes timing specification for the February meeting. The other rules confirm that there will be a meeting prior to the AGM to consider the accounts.
8(iv)	The Chairman shall be the Master of the Association. In his/her absence the Trustees shall elect one of their number to the chair for that meeting.	The Chair shall be the Master of the Association. In their absence the Trustees shall elect one of their number to act as Chair for that meeting.	Gender neutral terminology.

Rule 9 - Accountability

Rule Number	Current Wording	Proposed Wording	Reason for Change
9	<p>The Trustees of the Belfry Repairs Fund shall comply with either the Audit or the Independent Examination requirements of the Charities Act 1993 (as appropriate) and The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995 and all Statements of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners, provided that in the event that the gross income or the total expenditure of the Belfry Repairs Fund in a particular accounting year shall not exceed the figure substituted in section 43 of the above Act of 1993 by section 28 (2) of the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994, the Trustees shall cause as soon as may be possible that the accounts of the Belfry Repairs Fund for that particular accounting year are subjected to verification for accuracy and are in accordance with the books and records of the Treasurer, such verification to be undertaken by two persons (not being Trustees of the Belfry Repairs Fund) who shall be appointed by them from within the membership of the Association for that purpose and who in the opinion of the</p>	<p>The Trustees of the Belfry Repairs Fund shall comply with the accounting, reporting, audit and independent examination requirements set out in the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 (as amended), and the applicable Statements of Recommended Practice (SORP).</p> <p>Where, in any financial year, the gross income of the Belfry Repairs Fund does not exceed the threshold requiring an independent examination under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011, the Trustees may instead arrange for the accounts for that year to be subjected to a verification of accuracy against the books and records of the Treasurer. Such verification shall be carried out by two persons, not being Trustees, appointed from among the membership of the Association and considered by the Trustees to be suitably competent. These persons shall present a written report of their verification to the next meeting of the Trustees following completion of their duties.</p>	<p>Updating the wording for legislative changes.</p> <p>Explanation</p> <p>The law for examining accounts of charities is set out in sections 144 and 145 Charities Act 2011 (and other regulations and accountancy practice).</p> <p>These require varying forms of audit depending on the charity’s size. S145 covers the provisions for lower-income charities, such as ours. Where the gross income is less than £25,000, there is no auditing requirement (unless the Charity Commission impose one). The auditing requirements for charities over this amount are set out in law and increase with the size of the charity.</p> <p>Our original rule required us to audit our accounts annually, even if we did not meet the thresholds. The revised rule preserves this with reference to the current rules, although you should note that the requirement we have set out for appointing “competent” persons is overtaken by the Charities Act 2011 provisions if the thresholds are exceeded.</p>

Proposed Rule Changes for AGM 2026 - BRF Rules

	trustees shall be qualified to act in such capacity. It shall be the duty of such persons to present a written report of the result of their verification of the accounts to the next meeting of the Trustees following the completion of their duties.		
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