



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH BELL RINGERS

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers
Registered charity no. 270036

Notes on the role of Elected Ordinary Trustee

In 2017, the Central Council resolved to adopt the CRAG (Council Reform and Action Group) proposals for the reform of its affairs¹. Proposal B transferred management of its affairs, including the development and delivery of strategy, to an elected Executive of eight people comprising the President, Deputy President, Secretary, Treasurer and four other elected members ("Ordinary Trustees"). The Executive also has the option of appointing two additional Trustees, should it consider that it requires additional skills or expertise.

All members of the Executive are Trustees of the Council and consequently are trustees of the registered charity. As such they must manage and administer the Council's property and affairs in pursuit of the Council's objects and in accordance with its Rules, Standing Orders and Policies and their statutory obligations, as Charity Trustees including but not limited to those under the Charities Act².

Further duties, described above as 'the development and delivery of strategy', require all members of the Executive to assist with:

- a. creating and delivering the strategic direction of ringing;
- b. acting as advocates promoting the well-being and development of ringing and ringers in general;
- c. promoting the development of technical and non-technical leadership skills amongst ringers;
- d. working strategically, in partnership with other bodies, to ensure the delivery of those services needed by ringers.

Anyone is eligible to stand for election as an officer or to the Executive, provided that they are over 18 years of age and not disqualified from acting as a trustee of a UK charity².

Serving as one of the four Ordinary Trustees offers a rewarding opportunity to help shape the direction of the Central Council and ensure a healthy future for ringing. Through their experience and knowledge (both inside and outside ringing), Ordinary Trustees play a vital role in ensuring that the Central Council's charitable work is aligned with best practice and remains true to the Council's objects and the interests of ringing.

Meeting commitments:

- The Annual Council Meeting is currently held in early September.
- The Executive meets monthly either via 'Skype' or in person.
- The Trustee may also be required to represent the Council at other meetings or events.

¹ CRAG: Final Summary and Proposals. Available at <http://www.methods.org.uk/archive/crag.htm>

² For guidance on the duties of a charity trustee, please refer to the [Charity Commission website](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charity-trustee-whats-involved>) and guidance document [CC3 The Essential Trustee – All you need to know](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-cc3>).

Principal responsibilities of the Elected Trustees:

- To carry out the essential duties of a charity trustee
- To develop, jointly with the other Trustees, the strategy and plans to deliver the objects of the Council
- To oversee and to be accountable for the delivery of the Council's operational and financial plans
- To act, if the Executive appoints them to such as role, as sponsor to a Workgroup, providing advice and guidance to the Workgroup Leader and facilitating communication between the Workgroup and the Executive as a whole.

Specific tasks:

- To attend meetings of the Executive and Council
- To contribute to the development and implementation of strategy
- To ensure that the Executive and Workgroups at all times comply with UK charity law

Desirable skills, attributes and experience:

- A demonstrable passion for ringing (it is not necessary for a Trustee to have high level ringing experience or expertise, but they should have the credibility to build respect amongst a broad range of ringers).
- Sufficient time available to give to the role
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Ability to deliver work with and through others (delegation)
- Leadership skills
- Recognition of the specific challenges facing volunteer organisations and the ability to work with and support teams of volunteers
- Excellent communication skills (written, verbal, tact, active listening)
- Tenacity and perseverance