



THE CENTRAL COUNCIL OF CHURCH

BELL RINGERS

UK Registered Charity No. 270036

Central Council of Church Bell Ringers

Standing Orders of the Council ('Standing Orders')

(with effect from 5th September 2026)

**EDITION 19 – APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S MEETING
ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2026**

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INTRODUCTION

I1 Interpretation and definitions

- I1.1 In these Standing Orders those terms which are defined by the Rules of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers shall have the have their meanings so defined, unless the context otherwise requires.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

C1 Subject of Motions

- C1.1 A Motion may be submitted for consideration at a Council Meeting where its purpose:
- a) is explicitly provided for by a Rule or Standing Order; or
 - b) is to express the views of members relating to the business of the Council.

C2 Notices of Motion

- C2.1 Each notice of Motion for consideration at a Council Meeting (which may be accompanied by a brief explanatory statement) shall be given to the Secretary with the names of a proposer and seconder (each being a Council Member) not less than six weeks before the meeting, and such Motions and statements shall appear on that meeting's agenda paper.
- C2.2 The number of Motions submitted for consideration at any Council Meeting shall be limited to two per proposer.

C3 Consideration of Motions

- C3.1 If a Motion is called on and the proposer is absent or unwilling to act as proposer the Meeting may give leave for another Member of the Council to propose the Motion.
- C3.2 For each Motion duly submitted to a Council Meeting:
- a) the proposer and seconder may address the meeting in connection with the Motion;
 - b) the Chair may invite questions of the proposer to be responded to by the proposer or by the proposer's nominee;
 - c) when the Chair declares the time for questions closed the proposer may seek leave of the meeting to amend or withdraw the Motion;
 - d) if the Motion is not withdrawn debate on the Motion may proceed; and
 - e) at any time before or during the debate the Chair may impose a limitation on the time for which speakers may speak, which shall apply unless extended in a particular case by agreement of those Representative Members present and voting.

- C3.3 If, at any time during the debate on a motion a Representative Member asks: "In the opinion of the Chair should the question now be put?" and if, in the opinion of the Chair the question has been sufficiently debated, then:
- a) a Representative Member may move that "The question now be put.", which motion shall be put to the Meeting without further debate; and
 - b) provided that such a motion is agreed by a majority of Representative Members present and voting, no further debate shall take place on the substantive motion, which shall be put to the vote.
- C3.4 Notwithstanding Standing Order C2 members present at a Council Meeting may:
- a) discuss other business; and
 - b) submit and determine other Motions not shown on the agenda paper, (whether procedural or substantive);
- by agreement of a majority of those Representative Members present and voting provided that in the reasonable opinion of the Chair such business or Motions relate to the genuine business of the Council and do not change its Rules, Standing Orders or Policies.

C4 Recording

- C4.1 The Executive shall keep minutes of all Council Meetings; including:
- a) the names of all Members present; and
 - b) details of business transacted including the results of all elections and the details of all Motions agreed.
- C4.2 Within four months of each Council Meeting the Secretary or their delegate shall send a copy of that meeting's minutes to each Council Member and Society Contact.

C5 Chair

- C5.1 The President (or in their absence or incapacity the Deputy President) shall normally preside as Chair of each Council Meeting.
- C5.2 In the absence or incapacity of both the President and Deputy President, those Representative Members present shall elect a Chair for that meeting.
- C5.3 The Chair of each Council Meeting shall conduct its business in accordance with the Rules and Standing Orders.

C6 Adjournment

- C6.1 Any Council Meeting may be adjourned to a later sitting if a Motion for adjournment (stating the date, time and place of the adjourned meeting) is agreed by no less than two thirds of those Representative Members present and voting.
- C6.2 No business shall be conducted at an adjourned Council Meeting unless it could properly have been conducted at such a meeting had the adjournment not taken place.

C7 Nominations

- C7.1 Each appointment made at a Council Meeting shall be on the basis of a Nomination made in accordance with Standing Orders C7.2 and C7.3, except that in the absence of sufficient Nominations the Chair of the meeting shall accept Nominations which are made in person by Representative Members present.
- C7.2 Notice shall be given to the Secretary not less than six weeks before the Council Meeting at which a Nomination is to be considered, and shall include:
- a) the names of its proposer and seconder, each being a Representative Member;
 - b) confirmation of the nominee's agreement to be nominated; and
 - c) a biographical statement not exceeding 200 words.
- C7.3 All nominations received in accordance with Standing Order C7.2 together with any supporting statements shall appear on the agenda paper of the Council Meeting at which they are to be considered.

C8 Elections

- C8.1 Each appointment made at a Council Meeting shall be by election in which each Representative Member present may vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies (with the candidates receiving most votes being elected), except that:
- a) where the number of candidates is equal to or less than the number of vacancies, those candidates nominated shall be deemed elected;
 - b) where more than two candidates stand for a single vacancy, voting shall take place under the Alternative Vote system of the Electoral Reform Society; and
 - c) in the event of a tied vote between the highest placed candidates for a vacancy, a candidate shall be selected by the drawing of lots.
- C8.2 The term of each person elected shall start at the end of the Council Meeting at which they are elected and shall continue until the end of the Council Meeting at which their successor is elected.

C9 Use of Technology

- C9.1 It is a condition for the use of technology in accordance with the requirements of Rule 5.12 that the Chair of the meeting is satisfied that the technology allows Council Members to participate in the manner described in the Rules and Standing Orders.

THE EXECUTIVE

E1 Executive Meetings

- E1.1 The Executive may conduct its proceedings as it thinks fit, subject to the Council's Rules, Standing Orders and Policies; but decisions on the following matters may be made only at an Executive Meeting which has been called and conducted in accordance with Standing Order E1.2:
- a) appointing or removing a Trustee, Workgroup Leader or Steward;
 - b) delegating any powers or functions of the Executive;
 - c) creating, replacing or withdrawing any Policy or Standing Order;
 - d) appointing or changing the Executive Sponsor of a Workgroup or Steward;
 - e) entering into any contract relating to landed property or paid employment, or any contract whose value exceeds such Maximum Contract Value as may be stated in the Standing Orders;
 - f) agreeing the date, venue or agenda of any Council Meeting;
 - g) agreeing or adopting any annual report, statement of accounts or forward plan;
 - h) any matter relating to a Conflict of Interest;
 - i) rescinding or suspending any Council membership;
 - j) adding or removing any entry on the Register of Small Societies; or
 - k) any matter likely to delay or frustrate the implementation of a Council Resolution.
- E1.2 Each Executive Meeting shall be called and conducted as follows:
- a) An Executive Meeting may be called:
 - (1) by any Trustee on giving 28 days' notice, setting out the matters to be agreed, to all other Trustees; or
 - (2) without notice on agreement of a majority of all Trustees.
 - b) On any matter to be determined, each Trustee present may exercise one vote.
 - c) Where an Executive Meeting has been called with 28 days' notice as required by this Standing Order all matters set out in that notice shall be decided by a majority of votes and in the case of a tied vote, the person who chairs the meeting shall have a second vote.
 - d) On all matters other than those referred to in paragraph c) of this Standing Order, all questions arising at such a meeting shall be decided only if more than half of all Trustees (whether present or not) are in agreement.
 - e) Each Executive Meeting shall be chaired by one of the following persons, in descending order of precedence (who are present, able and willing to exercise this function):
 - (1) the President;
 - (2) the Deputy President;
 - (3) the Treasurer; or
 - (4) a Trustee appointed by a majority of those present.
 - f) No business shall be transacted at an Executive Meeting unless a quorum of four Trustees is present, except that where the number of current Trustees is less than four, those serving Trustees may act for the purpose of appointing candidates to vacant Executive positions.
 - g) A Trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which that Trustee is not entitled to vote.

- h) Trustees may attend (and shall be deemed present at such parts of) any Executive Meeting in which they participate by means of telephone or communications equipment which allows everyone participating to hear each other.
- i) All decisions made at a meeting of the Executive shall be minuted and a copy of such minutes shall within 14 days of the Executive Meeting be sent by the Secretary or their delegate to all Council Members.

FINANCIAL AND AUDIT

F1 Annual Affiliation Fee

- F1.1 The Annual Affiliation Fee for each Affiliated Society shall be £1.00 per member of that Society based on its Society Membership.
- F1.2 The Annual Affiliation Fee for each Associated Society shall be £0.40 per member of that Society based on its declared Society Membership. This fee may be varied on application to, and at the discretion of, the Executive; but shall not be less than £30.
- F1.3 The Annual Affiliation Fee of each Registered Small Society shall be £10.

F2 Annual Reports

- F2.1 The Annual Financial Report shall have visibility on how the Council has performed as a charity during the previous year.
- F2.2 The Annual Financial Report shall show the Executive's forward plan and budget for the next year. It will show how sustainable the finances of Council are, and how it plans to use funds to further its objects.

F3 Register of Significant Assets

- F3.1 The Council's Significant Assets are:-
 - a) The Rolls of Honour
 - b) The Carter Ringing Machine Collection
 - c) The Dove directory of towers and its associated electronic database
 - d) The contents of the Council's libraries
 - e) Intellectual property rights (including publication copyrights) vested in the Council.

F4 Maximum Contract Value

- F4.1 The Maximum Contract Value is £1,000 sterling.

F5 Independent Examiners

- F5.1 An Independent Examiner need not be a Representative Member and shall hold office until the end of the next Annual Council Meeting following their election.

- F5.2 An Independent Examiner may not simultaneously be an Office Holder and shall be deemed to have resigned as an Independent Examiner on becoming an Office Holder.
- F5.3 An Independent Examiner acting alone after consultation with the Trustees, or the Independent Examiners acting together, shall have power to employ the services of a professional accountant at the expense of the Council in pursuit of their duties.
- F5.4 If an Independent Examiner vacates their office before expiry of their term, the Executive shall have the power to make a temporary appointment to fill the vacancy.

GOVERNANCE

G1 Governance Review

- G1.1 Every three years commencing May 2019, the Executive shall request an independent review the Council's Rules, Standing Orders and governance to assess whether they continue to be effective and aligned with best practice.
- G1.2 If eligibility to vote at Council Meetings remains vested wholly or partially with Representative Members, each such review shall include an assessment as to whether it would be appropriate to transfer some or all of the powers of Representative Members to one or more classes of individual members.

MEMBERSHIP

M1 Fellows

- M1.1 The Council shall have a class of Individual Member, named "Fellow" reserved for those who have given distinguished service to the ringing community, which the Council wishes to recognise.

- M1.2 Each Fellow shall be appointed by Resolution agreed at a Council Meeting provided that:
- a) any such appointment shall have been recommended by a unanimous resolution of the Executive; and
 - b) the first Fellows shall be those life members of the Council at the beginning of the meeting at which the Rules were adopted.
 - c) Former Life Members of the Council who, on 28 May 2018 became Fellows and who have remained Fellows since that day shall continue as Fellows for life under these Standing Orders, and while they remain Fellows shall be entitled to vote and shall be treated in all other respects as Representative Members for the purposes of Rules (except Rules 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 8.7), Standing Orders (except Standing Orders M1.5 and M1.8) and Policies of the Council.
- M1.3 Any Member of the Council may inform the Executive of the name of a person to be considered for appointment as a Fellow.
- M1.4 There is no membership fee for a Fellow.
- M1.5 Fellows shall be appointed for life, except in the event that their fellowship is rescinded by an Executive Decision.
- M1.6 The Secretary or their delegate shall maintain a register of all Fellows.
- M1.7 A Fellow may resign from their appointment by notice in writing to the Secretary.
- M1.8 A Fellow does not have voting rights at a Council meeting, unless they are also a current Council Member.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

N1 Notices

- N1.1 Any communication required by a Rule, Standing Order or Policy shall be made to the stated addressee either:
- a) in writing, by delivering it either by hand or by first class post in a prepaid envelope to their postal address; or
 - b) via electronic communication to their electronic address.
- N1.2 For the purposes of Standing Order N1.1:
- a) where the recipient is the Council itself or an Office Holder, their address is that most recently published by the Council; and
 - b) in other circumstances, the recipient's address is that most recently notified to the Secretary.
- N1.3 For the purposes of Standing Order N1.1 in the absence of evidence as to when the communication was received by the addressee, any communication shall be deemed to have been served:
- a) 48 hours after its sent date and time if sent electronically; or
 - b) 2 days after its date of posting if sent by post.

- N1.4 For the purposes of Standing Order N1.3 the following conclusive evidence that a communication was served shall be acceptable:
- a) for communications by post, proof that an envelope containing the communication was properly, addressed, prepaid and posted;
 - b) for deliveries by hand, such evidence that indicates the communication was delivered;
 - c) for electronic communications, proof that the communication was sent by the sender's systems, which may comprise in the case of electronic mail the receipt by the sender of a blind copy of their own message.
- N1.5 Any communication required by a Rule, Standing Order or Policy may be withdrawn and shall have no effect, provided each of its addressees receive notice of such a withdrawal from the person (or persons) who sent the communication.

N2 Personal Benefit

- N2.1 Any person authorised by the Executive is entitled to be compensated from the property of the Council such reasonable expenses properly incurred by them when acting on the Council's behalf, as may be determined by the Council's Policies.
- N2.2 A Trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at the Council's expense.

SOCIETIES

S1 Society Membership

- S1.1 For the purposes of the Rules the Society Membership of a bell ringing society at any time shall be defined with reference to either a snapshot of membership numbers as of the due date of the Annual Affiliation Fee for that year, or failing that the numbers reported at the society's most recent annual meeting before the due date given:-
- a) where a society has a membership subscription, its Society Membership shall be the number of its members paying (or exempted from paying) membership subscriptions; or
 - b) where a society has no membership subscription, its Society Membership shall be the number of its members who either:-
 - (1) appeared on that Society's membership list, received one or more member notices from the Society and are considered by that Society to be participating members; or
 - (2) attended at least one event (including meetings, practices, peal attempts, dinners and other gatherings of members) organised by that Society; or
 - (3) as declared by their Officers and approved by the Secretary.

S2 Transferring a Society's affiliation

- S2.1 An Affiliated Society that no longer fulfils the membership numbers, as mentioned in Rule 3.4(a), may become a Registered Small Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before affiliation fees are due, informing them that they wish to transfer due to their membership numbers levels dropping.
- S2.2 An Associated Society that no longer fulfils the membership numbers, as mentioned in Rule 3.6(a), may become a Registered Small Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before affiliation fees are due, informing them that they wish to transfer due to their membership numbers levels dropping.
- S2.3 A Registered Small Society that no longer fulfils the membership numbers, as mentioned in Rule 3.10(a), may become an Affiliated Society or an Associated Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before affiliation fees are due, informing them that they wish to transfer due to their membership numbers increasing. If they wish to become an Associated Society they must state that they agree with the affiliation fees as mentioned in Rule 3.14. If an affiliation fee is not agreed within one calendar month then the transfer will not be approved.
- S2.4 An Affiliated Society may become an Associated Society by writing to the Secretary at least one month before affiliation fees are due, informing them that they wish to transfer. They must state that they agree with the affiliation fees as mentioned in Rule 3.14. If an affiliation fee is not agreed within one calendar month then the transfer will not be approved.
- S2.5 If a Society requests a transfer of its application then the Society will send updated documentation as defined in Standing Order S3.1.
- S2.6 The Executive can approve a transfer of a Society's affiliation at an Executive Meeting. The Secretary will write to the Society within a week to inform them if their transfer application was successful or not.
- S2.7 If an application, as made in Standing Order S2.6, is unsuccessful then the Society may appeal against the decision. If this appeal is again rejected by the Executive, then the Society can raise the matter at a Council Meeting. If the Council Meeting approves the appeal then their transfer is approved, effective of the date of the Council Meeting. If the Council Meeting rejects the appeal then the matter is closed.
- S2.8 If a Society successfully changes its affiliation during a year then any affiliation fees due for that year cannot be refunded, and their new affiliation will take effect 1 January of the following year when affiliation fees are due.

S3 Registered Societies

A Registered Society includes Affiliated, Associated, and Small Societies.

- S3.1 The Executive may approve an application from a bell ringing society to become a Registered Society where such a society satisfies the following conditions to the Executive's reasonable satisfaction:
- a) it has a written constitution and duly appointed officers;
 - b) it has safeguarding arrangements (dealing with the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults) that reflect local best practice for the jurisdiction(s) where that society operates;
 - c) it has supplied details to the Secretary of its objects, membership and activities together with contact details for at least two of its officers;
 - d) its actions will not unreasonably frustrate the activities of any other Registered Society; and
 - e) it satisfies such other conditions as may be stated in the Council's Standing Orders and Policies.
- S3.2 The Executive may not make a decision to remove a society's registration unless it is satisfied that the society:
- a) no longer meets the conditions set out in Standing Order S3.1; or
 - b) by virtue of its actions, or the actions of its members or its officers, could directly or indirectly bring the Council into disrepute.
- S3.3 A decision of the Executive referred to in Standing Order S3.2 may not be made unless:
- a) the society has been given notice of the reasons for its proposed removal; and
 - b) one or more of the society's representatives have had reasonable opportunity to state its case in writing to the Executive.
- S3.4 The Executive shall report their decision to the next Annual Council Meeting.

S4 Society Contacts

- S4.1 An application for membership as a Registered Society must include the relevant details of the person who is the Society Contact:
- a) for the purposes of the application; and
 - b) for the purposes of the society if the application is approved and to whom notices in connection with the Council's business may be sent.
- S4.2 A Registered Society must notify the Secretary of any change in details of its Society Contact.

REGULATIONS – WORKGROUPS AND STEWARDS

W1 Terms of Reference

- W1.1 Each terms of reference for a Workgroup or Steward position shall state at least:
- its title and principal areas of activity;
 - for a Steward, the method of appointment or election and the term of office.
- W1.2 Where more than one Steward has the same responsibilities, a single terms of reference may cover all such positions.

W2 Length of Service

- W2.1 Workgroup Leaders shall retire at the end of the sixth Annual Council Meeting after their appointment and may not become eligible for appointment to the same role until the Annual Council Meeting next after such retirement.
- W2.2 Unless otherwise approved by Resolution at a Council Meeting, Stewards shall retire at the end of the ninth Annual Council Meeting after their appointment or election and may not become eligible for appointment or re-election to the same role until the Annual Council Meeting next after such retirement.

W3 Size of Workgroups

- W3.1 At all times the number of members of a Workgroup shall be subject to the approval of its Executive Sponsor.

TERMS OF REFERENCE – STEWARDS

XS1 Carter Ringing Machine Stewards

Principal Areas of Activity: - Responsible for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Carter Ringing Machine Collection. - To seek opportunities to make the Collection as widely known and appreciated as possible. Number of Positions: - Up to 3 positions of Steward. Method of appointment (or election) and term of office: - Stewards shall be appointed by the Executive in such numbers and for such terms as the Executive agrees.
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XS2 Dove Stewards

Principal Areas of Activity:
1. Responsible for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Dove database. 2. To seek opportunities to make the Dove database as widely used and appreciated as possible.
Number of Positions:
3. Up to 4 positions of Steward.
Method of appointment (or election) and term of office:
4. Stewards shall be appointed by the Executive in such numbers and for such terms as the Executive agrees.

XS3 Library Stewards

Principal Areas of Activity:
1. Responsible for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Council's physical and digital libraries. 2. To seek opportunities to make the libraries as widely used and appreciated as possible.
Number of Positions:
3. Up to 3 positions of Steward.
Method of appointment (or election) and term of office:
4. Stewards shall be appointed by the Executive in such numbers and for such terms as the Executive agrees.

XS4 Rolls of Honour Stewards

Principal Areas of Activity:
1. Responsible for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Rolls of Honour. 2. To seek opportunities to make the Rolls of Honour as widely used and appreciated as possible.
Number of Positions:
3. Up to 3 positions of Steward.
Method of appointment (or election) and term of office:
4. Stewards shall be appointed by the Executive in such numbers and for such terms as the Executive agrees.

XS5 Fred E. Dukes International Bell Fund Stewards

Principal Areas of Activity:
1. Management Trustee for the Fred E. Dukes International Bell Fund (the “Fund”), with responsibility for the investment, operation and distribution of Fund in accordance with: a. the legacy of the late Mr. F. E Dukes; as set out in the letter from Matheson Ormsby Prentice dated 16th September 1999, together with its attachments; and b. any additional operating rules giving effect the above legacy which may be approved by the Executive.
Number of Positions:
2. Up to 4 positions of Steward.
Method of appointment (or election) and term of office:
3. Stewards shall be appointed by the Executive in such numbers and for such terms as the Executive agrees.

XS6 Felstead Database Stewards

Principal Areas of Activity:
1. Responsible for the hosting, care and maintenance of the Felstead Database. 2. To seek opportunities to make the Felstead Database as widely used and appreciated as possible.
Number of Positions:
3. Up to 4 positions of Steward.
Method of appointment (or election) and term of office:
4. Stewards shall be appointed by the Executive in such numbers and for such terms as the Executive agrees.

TERMS OF REFERENCE - WORKGROUPS

XW1 The work of the Council shall be supported by a number of Workgroups, whose current principal areas of activity are shown below:

XW1.1 History & Archive

- a) To develop and manage a comprehensive historical and reference resource relating to ringers and all aspects of ringing.
- b) To make these resources as widely known and appreciated as possible within the ringing community and more generally.

XW1.2 Ringing 2030 Environments

- a) To support ringers, the owners of bells, and other interested parties in all matters relating to the care of bells, ringers and those who visit bell towers in the areas of:
 - (1) statutory compliance, safety and governance in relation to ringing;
 - (2) funding, products, expertise and facilities to support ringing and the availability of bell installations; and
 - (3) best practice relating to maintenance, and improvement of bell installations and training facilities.
- b) To promote excellence in ringing through relevant technical and leadership training.
- c) To promote an environment where ringers can flourish in a safe and secure atmosphere, in pursuit of the Ringing 2030 objectives.

XW1.3 Technical & Taxonomy

- a) To maintain and publish for the Council authoritative reference standards for change ringing.
- b) To ensure that authoritative records and analysis of published methods, published compositions and significant tower & handbell peals are available.
- c) Where requested to provide guidance on methods, compositions and aspects of ringing theory.
- d) To promote innovation and interest in the theory of ringing and the use of technology to support ringing.

XW1.4 Ringing 2030 Marketing

- a) To publicise ringing and its heritage.
- b) To provide marketing and publicity materials to promote ringing to the general public.

XW1.5 Ringing 2030 Recruitment & Development

- a) To coordinate an international recruitment network.
- b) To support excellence in ringing through relevant leadership training.

XW1.6 Technology for Ringing 2030

- a) To enable and facilitate the Ringing 2030 initiative through new digital platforms.

XW1.7 Young Ringers for Ringing 2030

- a) To establish new, long-term sustainable sources of recruits from schools and youth groups, focusing on their transition through higher education and beyond.
- b) To nurture future leaders of the exercise.