

The Constitution of Bramley Parish Theatre Players

Constitution of the Bramley Parish Theatre Players

adopted at the 2007 A.G.M.

1. Name

The Group shall be called **Bramley Parish Theatre Players** and be known by the acronym BPTP.

2. Objects

The objects of the BPTP are to involve the public in the dramatic and operatic arts, and to further the development of public enjoyment, appreciation and taste in the said arts.

3. Powers

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise the BPTP through its Executive Committee may exercise the following powers:

- a) to promote plays, drama, comedies, operas, operettas and other dramatic and operatic works of educative value;
- b) to purchase acquire and obtain interests in the copyright of or the right to perform or show any such dramatic or operatic works;
- c) to purchase or otherwise acquire plant, machinery, furniture, fixtures, fittings, scenery and all other necessary effects;
- d) to raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise, provided that in raising funds the BPTP shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any relevant requirements of the law;
- e) subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the BPTP;
- f) subject to any consents required by law to borrow money and to charge all or any part of the property of the BPTP with repayment of the money so borrowed;
- g) to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the objects or similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them;
- h) to establish or support any charitable trusts, association or institutions formed for all or any of the objects;
- i) to assist and further such charitable institutions and charitable purposes as the Executive Committee shall from time to time determine;
- j) to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Executive Committee may think fit;
- k) to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the objects of the BPTP.

4. Membership

The BPTP shall consist of Members, and may also include as honorary Life Members such other persons as shall have rendered special services to the BPTP. Members may be acting members or support members.

5. Eligibility for Membership

- 1.) Full Membership shall be open to all those over the age of 18, having sympathy with the objects of the BPTP and desiring actively to further it and to pay the entrance fee, where applicable and annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee. Every Full Member shall have one vote.
- 2.) Young person's membership shall be open to anyone under the age of 18, having sympathy with the objects of the BPTP and desiring actively to further it and to pay the entrance fee, where applicable and annual subscription laid down from time to time by the Executive Committee. Young people shall not have a vote. Young people will elect two representatives for the year. The Executive Committee will consult these representatives and may invite them to meetings or parts of meetings from time to time.

6. Applications for Membership

Applications for membership shall be made by requesting membership, to any member of the Executive Committee. Membership will be probationary for the first month and then full membership will be accorded or denied by the Executive Committee.

7. Capabilities of Candidates for Membership

Prior to election all candidates for membership as performers (Acting Members) shall satisfy the Executive Committee as to their histrionic and/or musical ability.

8. Expulsion of Members

The Executive Committee may by a unanimous vote remove from the list of Members the name of any Member who has persistently neglected the work undertaken by the BPTP or whose conduct it considers likely to endanger the welfare of the BPTP. The individual shall have the right to be heard by the Executive Committee, accompanied by a friend, before a final decision is made.

9. Subscriptions and Fees

The annual subscription to the BPTP and entrance fees, if applicable, shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee.

10. Payment of Entrance Fees and Subscriptions

Entrance fees, if applicable, and first annual subscriptions shall become due and be paid to the Treasurer on receipt of notice of election to full membership from the Secretary, and all subsequent annual subscriptions shall become due by 1st. October in each year and shall be paid to the Treasurer not later than 30th. November.

11. Non-Payment of subscriptions

The Executive Committee shall have power by bare majority to suspend any member whose subscription remains unpaid after 30th. November in any year from exercising all or any of the privileges of membership until his or her subscription is paid.

12. Adjustment of Subscriptions

The Executive Committee shall have power to remit such portion of the subscription as they think right in the case of Members elected after 1st. January or Members leaving the neighbourhood and resigning their membership before the end of any season and to re-admit to the BPTP without entrance fee any persons who have previously been Members

when such persons have resigned owing to leaving the neighbourhood or for other good cause.

13. Resignations

Members wishing to resign must tell the Secretary and the Executive Committee will decide what portion of the annual subscription, if any, may be refunded.

14. Honorary Life Members

Honorary Life Members may, on the nomination and recommendation of the Executive Committee only, be elected on such terms as the members of the BPTP at an Annual General Meeting may from time to time decide.

15. Executive Committee

a) The BPTP shall be managed by an Executive Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting consisting of the following Officers, namely: Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary, Child Protection Officer, and 4 Members. One member of the Executive Committee can hold more than one position (such as Financial Secretary). In that case there needs to be 5 other Members. These Officers and Committee Members shall all be over the age of 18.

b) The Pantomime Director shall be chosen by the committee annually following the annual pantomime and before the Annual General Meeting. The Director is then an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee with full voting rights.

- c) A member of the Executive Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
- is disqualified from acting as a member of the Executive Committee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision)];
 - becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
 - is absent without the permission of the Executive Committee from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the Executive Committee resolve that his or her office be vacated; or
 - notifies to the Executive Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least three members of the Executive Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect)

d) The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

e) No person shall be entitled to act as a member of the Executive Committee whether on a first or subsequent entry into office until after signing in the minute book of the Executive Committee a declaration of acceptance and of willingness to act in the trusts of the BPTP.

f) The Executive Committee shall co-opt two members under 18 selected by the BPTP members under the age of 18 to represent them on the committee. These representatives shall have no voting rights but will be expected to join in discussions.

16. Executive Committee Members not to be personally interested

a) Subject to the provisions of sub-clause (b) of this clause no member of the Executive Committee shall acquire any interest in property belonging to the BPTP [otherwise than as a Trustee for the Charity] or receive remuneration or be interested (otherwise than as a Member of the Executive Committee) in any contract entered into by the Executive Committee.

b) Optional – see footnote2. Any member of the Executive Committee for the time being who is a solicitor, accountant or other person engaged in a profession may charge and be paid all the usual professional charges for business done by him or her or his or her firm when instructed by the other members of the Executive Committee to act in a professional capacity on behalf of the BPTP: provided that at no time shall a majority of the members of the Executive Committee benefit under this provision and that a member of the Executive Committee shall withdraw from any meeting at which his or her own instruction or remuneration, or that of his her firm, is under discussion.

17. Meetings of Executive Committee

a) The Executive Committee shall hold at least two ordinary meetings a year.

b) A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Executive Committee upon not less than 4 days' notice being given to the other members of the Executive Committee of the matters to be discussed.

c) The Chairman shall act as chairman at meetings of the Executive Committee. If the Chairman is absent from any meeting, the members of the Executive Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting before any other business is transacted.

d) There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the number of members of the Executive Committee for the time being or 3 of the Executive Committee, whichever is greater, are present at a meeting.

e) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Executive Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.

f) The Executive Committee shall keep minutes, in books kept for the purpose, of the proceedings of meeting of the Executive Committee and any sub-committee.

g) The Executive Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and the custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

h) The Executive Committee may appoint one or more sub-committees consisting of three or more members of the Executive Committee for the purpose of making any inquiry or supervising or performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Executive Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a subcommittee: provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Executive Committee.

18. Executive Committee's Powers

The Executive Committee shall have power to decide any questions arising out of these Rules and all other matters connected with the BPTP (other than and except those which can be dealt with only by the BPTP in General Meeting) and make maintain and publish all necessary orders regulations and bye-laws in connection therewith.

19. Finance

a) The funds of the BPTP shall be applied solely in furthering the objects of the BPTP.

b) The funds of the BPTP, including all members' fees, donations, box office income and bequests, shall be paid into an account operated by the Executive Committee in the name of the BPTP at such bank as the Executive Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on the account must be signed by at least two members of the Executive Committee.

c) No member of the BPTP shall receive payment directly or indirectly for services to the BPTP or for other than legitimate expenses incurred in its work.

d) No expenditure shall be incurred by any member of the BPTP without the knowledge of the Treasurer and/or Secretary and all accounts shall be sanctioned by the Executive Committee.

e) The BPTP shall give an annual subscription to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association in accordance with the subscription scales published by that Association, and shall abide by the Rules & Bye-Laws of that Association.

20. Financial Year

The financial year of the BPTP shall commence on 1st. April and an annual profit and loss account and balance sheet shall be prepared within two calendar months after 31st. March in each year. [The Executive Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to the preparation of an annual report and annual return and their transmission to the Commission.]

21. Annual General Meeting

a) The Annual General Meeting of the BPTP shall be held in the month of June or as soon as practicable thereafter, when the Report of the Executive Committee and accounts for the past year, duly examined, shall be presented; also the Officers, other members of Executive Committee and an Examiner, for the ensuing year, and the honorary Life Members, if any, elected, and all general business transacted.

b) Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Executive Committee. The Secretary shall give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all members of the BPTP. All the members of the BPTP shall be entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

c) Before any other business is transacted at the first Annual General Meeting the persons present shall appoint a chairman of the meeting. The chairman shall be the chairman of subsequent Annual General Meetings, but if he or she is not present, the persons present shall appoint a chairman of the meeting.

d) The Executive Committee shall present to each Annual General Meeting the report and accounts of the BPTP for the preceding year.

e) Nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be made by members of the BPTP in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot. Should there be no written nominations, nominations can be accepted at the meeting.

22. Retirement of Officers and Executive Committee

The Executive Committee (including the Officers) and the Examiner shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election.

The names of candidates for these positions shall be sent to the Secretary in writing at least 21 days before the Annual General Meeting and if more names are proposed than the number required to fill the vacancies and sufficient are not withdrawn at or before such Meeting, the election shall be by ballot. If all the before-mentioned positions shall not be filled at such Meeting or any casual vacancy shall thereafter occur the same shall be filled by the remaining members of the Executive Committee.

23. Special General Meetings

A Special General Meeting of the BPTP may be called at any time at the discretion of the Executive Committee and shall be called within 21 days after the receipt by the Secretary of a requisition in writing to that effect signed by at least three Members. Every such requisition shall specify the business for which the Meeting is to be convened and no other business shall be transacted at such Meeting.

24. Procedure at General Meetings

The Secretary or other person specially appointed by the Executive Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting of the BPTP.

25. Quorum at General Meetings

No business other than the formal adjournment of the Meeting shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum be present and such quorum shall consist of not less than 5 persons present and entitled to vote.

26. Resolution at General Meeting

Unless otherwise provided by these Rules all resolutions brought forward at a General Meeting shall be decided by a bare majority of the votes properly recorded at such Meeting and in the case of an equality of votes the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

27. Notice of General Meeting

A printed notice of every General Meeting accompanied in the case of the Annual General Meeting by the Statement of Accounts for the past year and particulars of nominations for the Executive Committee (including the Officers) and Examiner and of any proposal to elect an honorary Life Member shall be sent to each member at least 14 days prior to the day fixed for such Meeting.

28. Selection of Works

The Executive Committee shall select the works to be produced by the BPTP and shall determine the dates of productions.

29. Selection of Cast

The cast for any production shall be selected by the Executive Committee or by a Selection Sub-Committee appointed by the Executive Committee and consisting of not less than three persons. Auditions are to be carried out in line with BPTP Audition Policy

30. Revision of Cast

The Executive Committee or its appointed Sub-Committee shall have power to revise the cast from time to time in consultation with the Show Director, if any Acting Member to whom a character has been assigned shall, in its opinion, prove unsuitable for the part.

31. Obligations of Acting Members

Acting Members shall to the best of their ability play the parts assigned to them and obey the directions given at all rehearsals and performances.

32. Control of Rehearsals

The Musical Director shall conduct all music rehearsals and the Director shall direct all stage rehearsals.

33. Attendance at Rehearsals and Performances

A record of the attendance of Acting Members at rehearsals and performances shall be kept by the Secretary. The Executive Committee shall have power to prohibit any Member whose attendance at rehearsals shall have been irregular from taking part in the performance of the work in preparation. Acting Members absenting themselves from three consecutive rehearsals may, at the discretion of the Executive Committee and in consultation with the show director, be deemed to have resigned their parts in the work then in rehearsal.

34. Acting Members in excess of Requirements

If at any time the number of Members rehearsing a production exceed the number of persons required for the representation of the same, preference shall be given to the Members who, by the regularity of their attendance, shall, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, have rendered themselves most efficient.

35. Production Money

All monies due from Members in connection with the production and performance of any work shall be accounted for, and paid to the Treasurer, within 28 days after the conclusion of the final performance.

36. Production Account

Within two calendar months after the final performance of any work produced by the BPTP, the Executive Committee shall prepare or cause to be prepared a full statement of the receipts and expenses of each production and the same shall be open for the inspection of Members at such time and place as the Executive Committee shall decide.

37. Recovery of Money due to BPTP

All monies due and owing to the BPTP, including the Entrance Fees and Subscriptions of Members, shall be recoverable at law in the name of the Secretary.

38. Dissolution of BPTP

If the Executive Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve the BPTP it shall call a meeting of all members of the BPTP, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting the Executive Committee

shall have power to realise any assets held by or on behalf of the BPTP. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to such other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the BPTP as the members of the BPTP may determine or failing that shall be applied for some other charitable purpose. A copy of the statement of accounts, or account or statement, for the final accounting period of the BPTP will be sent to the Charity Commission.

39. Alteration to Rules

a) No alteration of these Rules shall be made except at a General Meeting nor unless 21 days prior to such a meeting a written notice of the proposed alteration or of one substantially to the like effect shall have been given to the Secretary, who shall give 14 days notice thereof to the members and the resolution embodying such proposed alteration shall be carried by a majority of at least two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting.

b) No amendment may be made to clauses 1, 2, 16, 38 or this clause without the prior consent of the Charity Commission.

40. Health and Safety

The BPTP Health and Safety Policy will be followed by all members of the society. Any members observing unsafe practices, incidents etc. must report this to the Executive Committee for action.

41. Child Protection

The BPTP Child Protection Policy will be followed by all members of the society. It will be revisited annually for revision as necessary in the light of any revised good practice. All adults, both cast and crew will be given training or re-training annually and this recorded by the Child Protection Officer. Any concerns about Child Protection must be passed immediately to the Child Protection Officer who will decide the most appropriate action.

42. Equal Opportunities

The BPTP Equal Opportunities Document will be followed by all members.

This policy was accepted in July 2007 and revised on 2nd. October 2008.

Signed

Chairman

Signed

Financial Secretary

Accepted at the AGM July 2009

Signed

Chairman

Signed

Secretary