

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF PHARMACY

Constitution

Date of constitution (last amended): June 9th 2014, minor revisions made to clauses 3 and 12(4) in March 2016. The list of Charity Trustees, clause 12(4), was amended following the AGM held on 2nd April 2017 and also after the AGMs held on 31st March 2019, 15th October 2020, and 23rd March 2024. The Society's registered address (clause 2) was amended following the AGM held on 5th April 2025.

1. Name

The name of the Charitable Incorporated Organisation is the British Society for the History of Pharmacy ("BSHP")

2. National location of principal office

The official address of the BSHP is: c/o RPS Museum, Royal Pharmaceutical Society, 66-68 East Smithfield, London E1W 1AW

3. Objects

The object of the CIO is:

To advance education for the public benefit in the history of pharmacy by:

- stimulating interest in and promoting and encouraging research and study in the history of pharmacy nationally and internationally;
- furthering the publication of studies in the history of pharmacy;
- organising meetings and conferences for the reading of papers on the history of pharmacy, pharmaceutical sciences and medicine; and
- establishing contact nationally and internationally with other societies for historical studies.

Nothing in this constitution shall authorise an application of the property of the BSHP for purposes which are not charitable in accordance with section 7 of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 or section 2 of the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008.

4. Powers

BSHP has power to do anything which is calculated to further its objects or is conducive or incidental to doing so. In particular, BSHP's powers include power to:

- (1) Borrow money and to charge the whole or any part of its property as security for the repayment of the money borrowed. BSHP must comply as appropriate with sections 38 and 39 of the Charities Act 1993 if it wishes to mortgage land;
- (2) Buy, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any property and to maintain and equip it for use;
- (3) Sell, lease or otherwise dispose of all or any part of the property belonging to BSHP. In exercising this power, BSHP must comply with sections 36 and 37 of the Charities Act 1993;
- (4) Employ and remunerate such staff as are necessary for carrying out its work. BSHP may employ or remunerate a Charity Trustee only to the extent that it is permitted to do so by clause 6 (Benefits and payments to Charity Trustees and connected persons) and provided it complies with the conditions of those clauses;

- (5) Deposit or invest funds, employ a professional fund-manager, and arrange for the investments or other property of BSHP to be held in the name of a nominee, in the same manner and subject to the same conditions as the trustees of a trust are permitted to do so by the Trustee Act 2000;

5. Application of income and property

- (1) The income and property of BSHP must be applied solely towards the promotion of the objects.
 - (a) A Charity Trustee is entitled to be reimbursed from the property of BSHP or may pay out of such property reasonable expenses properly incurred by him or her when acting on behalf of the Society.
 - (b) A Charity Trustee may benefit from trustee indemnity insurance cover purchased at BSHP's expense in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73F of the Charities Act 1993.
- (2) None of the income or property of BSHP may be paid or transferred directly or indirectly by way of dividend, bonus or otherwise by way of profit to any member of BSHP. This does not prevent a member who is not also a Charity Trustee receiving:
 - (a) A benefit from the Society as a beneficiary of BSHP;
 - (b) Reasonable and proper remuneration for any goods or services supplied to BSHP.

6. Benefits and payments to Charity Trustees and connected persons

(1) General provisions

No Charity Trustee or connected person may:

- (a) Buy or receive any goods or services from BSHP on terms preferential to those applicable to members of the public;
- (b) Sell goods, services or any interest in land to BSHP;
- (c) Be employed by, or receive any remuneration from, BSHP;
- (d) Receive any other financial benefit from BSHP;

unless the payment or benefit is permitted by sub-clause (2) of this clause, or authorised by the court or the Charity Commission ("the Commission"). In this clause, a "financial benefit" means a benefit, direct or indirect, which is either money or has a monetary value.

(2) Scope and powers permitting trustees' or connected persons' benefits

- (a) A Charity Trustee or connected person may receive a benefit from BSHP as a beneficiary of the Society provided that a majority of the trustees do not benefit in this way.
- (b) A Charity Trustee or connected person may enter into a contract for the supply of services, or of goods that are supplied in connection with the provision of services, to BSHP where that is permitted in accordance with, and subject to the conditions in, section 73A to 73C of the Charities Act 1993.
- (c) Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause a Charity Trustee or connected person may provide BSHP with goods that are not supplied in connection with services provided to the Society by the Charity Trustee or connected person.
- (d) A Charity Trustee or connected person may receive interest on money lent to BSHP at a reasonable and proper rate which must be 2% (or more) per annum below the base rate of a clearing bank to be selected by the Charity Trustees.
- (e) A Charity Trustee or connected person may receive rent for premises let by the trustee or connected person to BSHP. The amount of rent and the other terms of the lease must be reasonable and proper. The Charity Trustee concerned must withdraw from any meeting at which such a proposal or the rent or other terms of the lease are under discussion.

- (f) A Charity Trustee or connected person may take part in the normal trading and fundraising activities of BSHP on the same terms as members of the public.

(3) Payment for supply of goods only – controls

The British Society for the History of Pharmacy and its Charity Trustees may only rely upon the authority provided by sub-clause (2)(c) of this clause if each of the following conditions is satisfied:

- (a) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods is set out in an agreement in writing between BSHP and the Charity Trustee or connected person supplying the goods (“the supplier”) under which the supplier is to supply the goods in question to or on behalf of the Society.
- (b) The amount or maximum amount of the payment for the goods does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances for the supply of the goods in question.
- (c) The other Charity Trustees are satisfied that it is in the best interests of BSHP to contract with the supplier rather than with someone who is not a Charity Trustee or connected person. In reaching the decision that Charity Trustees must balance the advantage of contracting with a Charity Trustee or connected person against the disadvantages of doing so.
- (d) The supplier is absent from the part of any meeting at which there is discussion of the proposal to enter into a contract or arrangement with him or her or it with regard to the supply of goods to BSHP.
- (e) The supplier does not vote on any such matter and is not to be counted when calculating whether a quorum of Charity Trustees is present at the meeting.
- (f) The reason for their decision is recorded by the Charity Trustees in the minute book.
- (g) A majority of the Charity Trustees then in office are not in receipt of remuneration or payments authorised by clause 6.

(4) In sub-clauses (2) and (3) of this clause:

- (a) “British Society for the History of Pharmacy” includes any company in which BSHP:
 - (i) Holds more than 50% of the shares; or
 - (ii) Controls more than 50% of the voting rights attached to the shares; or
 - (iii) Has the right to appoint one or more directors to the board of the company;
- (b) “connected person” includes any person within the definition set out in clause 30 (Interpretation)

7. Conflicts of interest and conflicts of loyalty

A Charity Trustee must:

- (1) Declare the nature and extent of any interest, direct or indirect, which he or she has in a proposed transaction or arrangement with BSHP or in any transaction or arrangement entered into by the Society which has not previously been declared; and
- (2) Absent himself or herself from any discussions of the Charity Trustees in which it is possible that a conflict of interest will arise between his or her duty to act solely in the interests of BSHP and any personal interest (including but not limited to any financial interest).

Any Charity Trustee absenting himself or herself from any discussions in accordance with this clause must not vote or be counted as part of the quorum in any decision of the Charity Trustees on the matter.

8. Liability of members to contribute to the assets of the BSHP if it is wound up

If the British Society for the History of Pharmacy is wound up, the members of the Society have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

9. Membership of the BSHP

(1) Admission of new members

(a) Eligibility

Membership of the BSHP is open to anyone who is interested in furthering its purposes, and who, by applying for membership, has indicated his, her or its agreement to become a member and acceptance of the duty of members set out in sub-clause (3) of this clause. A member may be an individual, a corporate body, or an organisation which is not incorporated.

(b) Admission procedure

The Charity Trustees:

- (i) May require applications for membership to be made in any reasonable way that they decide;
- (ii) Shall, if they approve an application for membership, notify the applicant of their decision within 21 days;
- (iii) May refuse an application for membership if they believe that it is in the best interests of BSHP for them to do so;
- (iv) Shall, if they decide to refuse an application for membership, give the applicant their reasons for doing so, within 21 days of the decision being taken, and give the applicant the opportunity to appeal against the refusal; and
- (v) Shall give fair consideration to any such appeal, and shall inform the applicant of their decision, but any decision to confirm refusal of the application for membership shall be final.

(2) Transfer of membership

Membership of BSHP cannot be transferred to anyone else.

(3) Duty of members

It is the duty of each member of BSHP to exercise his or her powers as a member of the Society in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of BSHP.

(4) Termination of membership

- (a) Membership of the British Society for the History of Pharmacy comes to an end if:
 - (i) The member dies, or, in the case of an organisation (or the representative of an organisation) that organisation ceases to exist; or
 - (ii) The member sends a notice of resignation to the Charity Trustees; or
 - (iii) Any sum of money owed by the member to BSHP is not paid in full within six months of its falling due; or
 - (iv) The Charity Trustees decide that it is the best interests of BSHP that the member in question should be removed from membership, and pass a resolution to that effect.
- (b) Before the Charity Trustees take any decision to remove someone from membership of BSHP they must:
 - (i) Inform the member of the reasons why it is proposed to remove him, her or it from membership;
 - (ii) Give the member at least 21 clear days' notice in which to make representations to the Charity Trustees as to why he, she or it should not be removed from membership;
 - (iii) At a duly constituted meeting of the Charity Trustees, consider whether or not the member should be removed from membership;

- (iv) Consider at that meeting any representations which the member makes as to why the member should not be removed; and
- (v) Allow the member, or the member's representative, to make those representations in person at that meeting, if the member so chooses.

(5) Membership fees

BSHP requires members to pay membership fees to the Society. Upon payment of fees, members are entitled to all privileges of membership, as determined and publicised by the Charity Trustees.

In addition, honorary members are entitled to one vote at BSHP meetings.

Institutional members are entitled to one vote at BSHP meetings.

(6) Informal or associate (non-voting) membership

(a) The Charity Trustees may create associate or other classes of non-voting membership, and may determine the rights and obligations of any such members (including payment of any membership fees), and the conditions for admission to, and termination of membership of any such class of members.

(b) Other references in this constitution to "members" and "membership" do not apply to non-voting members, and non-voting members do not qualify as members for any purpose under the Charities Acts, General Regulations or Dissolution Regulations.

10. Members' decisions

(1) General provisions

Except for those decisions that must be taken in a particular way as indicated in sub-clause (3) of this clause, decisions of the members of BSHP may be taken by vote at a General Meeting as provided in sub-clause (2) of this clause.

(2) Taking ordinary decisions by vote

Subject to sub-clause (3) of this clause, any decision of the members of BSHP may be taken by means of a resolution at a General Meeting. Such a resolution may be passed by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting.

(3) Decisions that must be taken in a particular way

- (a) Any decision to amend this constitution must be taken in accordance with clause 28 of this constitution (Amendment of Constitution).
- (b) Any decision to wind up or dissolve BSHP must be taken in accordance with clause 29 of this constitution (Voluntary winding up or dissolution). Any decision to amalgamate or transfer the undertaking of BSHP to one or more other organisations must be taken in accordance with the provisions of the Charities Act 1993.

11. General Meetings of members

(1) Types of General Meeting

There must be an Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the members of BSHP. The first AGM must be held within 18 months of the registration of BSHP as an incorporated charity, and subsequent AGMs must be held at intervals of not more than 15 months, usually in March or April. The AGM must receive the annual statement of accounts (duly audited and examined where applicable) and the trustees' annual report, and must elect trustees as required under clause 13.

In addition to election of trustees, the AGM must also elect ordinary committee members as required to maintain a committee of twelve members inclusive of the three trustees.

Other General Meetings of the members of BSHP may be held at any time.

All General Meetings must be held in accordance with the following provisions.

(2) Calling General Meetings

- (a) The Charity Trustees:
 - (i) must call the Annual General Meeting of the BSHP members in accordance with sub-clause (1) of this clause, and identify it as such in the notice of the meeting; and
 - (ii) may call any other General Meeting of the members at any time.
- (b) The Charity Trustees must, within 21 days, call a General Meeting of BSHP if:
 - (i) They receive a request to do so from at least 10% of the members of BSHP; and
 - (ii) The request states the general nature of the business to be dealt with at the meeting, and is authenticated by the member(s) making the request.
 - (iii) If, at the time of any such request, there has not been any General Meeting of the members of BSHP for more than 12 months, then sub-clause (b)(i) of this clause shall have effect as if 5% were substituted for 10%.
 - (iv) Any such request may include particulars of a resolution that may properly be proposed, and is intended to be proposed, at the meeting.
- (c) A resolution may only be properly proposed if it is lawful, and is not defamatory, frivolous or vexatious.
 - (vi) Any General Meeting called by the Charity Trustees at the request of the members of BSHP must be held within 28 days from the date on which it is called.
 - (vii) If the Charity Trustees fail to comply with this obligation to call a General Meeting at the request of its members, then the members who requested the meeting may themselves call a General Meeting.
 - (viii) A General Meeting called in this way must be held not more than 3 months after the date when the members first requested the meeting.
 - (ix) BSHP must reimburse any reasonable expenses incurred by the members calling a General Meeting by reason of the failure of the Charity Trustees to duly call the meeting, but BSHP shall be entitled to be indemnified by the Charity Trustees who were responsible for such failure.

(3) Notice of General Meetings

- (a) The Charity Trustees, or, as the case may be, the relevant members of BSHP, must give at least 14 clear days' notice of any General Meeting to all of the members.
- (b) If it is agreed by not less than 90% of all BSHP members, any resolution may be proposed and passed at the meeting even though the requirements of sub-clause (3) (a) of this clause have not been met. This sub-clause does not apply where a specified period of notice is strictly required by another clause in this constitution, by the Charities Act 1993 or by the General Regulations.
- (c) The notice of any General Meeting must:
 - (i) State the time and date of the meeting;
 - (ii) Give the address at which the meeting is to take place;
 - (iii) Give particulars of any resolution which is to be moved at the meeting, and of the general nature of any other business to be dealt with at the meeting; and
 - (iv) If a proposal to alter the constitution of BSHP is to be considered at the meeting, include the text of the proposed alteration;

- (v) Include, with the notice for the AGM, the annual statement of accounts and trustees' annual report, details of persons standing for election or re-elections as a trustee, or where allowed under clause 22 (Use of electronic communication), details of where the information can be found on the BSHP website.
- (d) Proof that an envelope containing a notice was properly addressed, prepaid and posted; or that an electronic form of notice was properly addressed and sent, shall be conclusive evidence that the notice was given. Notice shall be deemed to be given 48 hours after it was posted or sent.
- (e) The proceedings of a meeting shall not be invalidated because a member who was entitled to receive notice of the meeting did not receive it because of accidental omission by BSHP.

(4) Chairing of General Meetings

The person elected as chair by the BSHP members under clause 19(2) (Chairing of meetings), shall, if present at the General Meeting and willing to act, preside as chair of the meeting. Subject to that, the BSHP members who are present at a General Meeting shall elect a chair to preside at the meeting.

(5) Quorum at General Meetings

- (a) No business may be transacted at any General Meeting of the members of BSHP unless a quorum is present when the meeting starts.
- (b) Subject to the following provisions, the quorum for General Meetings shall be the greater of 5% or ten members. An organisation represented by a person present at the meeting in accordance with sub-clause (7) of this clause, is counted as being present in person.
- (c) If the meeting has been called by or at the request of the members and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the meeting is closed.
- (d) If the meeting has been called in any other way and a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the starting time specified in the notice of the meeting, the chair must adjourn the meeting. The date, time and place at which the meeting will resume must be notified to BSHP's members at least seven clear days before the date on which it will resume.
- (e) If a quorum is not present within 15 minutes of the start time of the adjourned meeting, the member or members present at the meeting constitute a quorum.
- (f) If at any time during the meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting may discuss issues and make recommendations to the trustees but may not make any decisions. If decisions are required which must be made by a meeting of the members, the meeting must be adjourned.

(6) Voting at General Meetings

Any decision other than one falling within clause 10(3) (Decisions that must be taken in a particular way) shall be taken by a simple majority of votes cast at the meeting

- (a) In the event of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chair of the meeting shall have a second, or casting vote.
- (b) Any objection to the qualification of any voter must be raised at the meeting at which the vote is cast and the decision of the chair of the meeting shall be final.

(7) Representation of organisations and corporate members

An organisation or a corporate body that is a member of BSHP may, in accordance with its usual decision making process, authorise a person to act as its representative at any General Meeting of the Society.

The representative is entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the organisation or corporate body as the organisation or corporate body could exercise as an individual member of BSHP.

(8) Adjournment of meetings

The Chair may with the consent of a meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting) adjourn the meeting to another time and/or place. No business may be transacted at an adjourned meeting except business which could properly have been transacted at the original meeting.

12. Charity Trustees

(1) Functions and duties of Charity Trustees

The Charity Trustees shall manage the affairs of BSHP and may for that purpose exercise all the powers of the Society. It is the duty of each Charity Trustee:

- (a) to exercise his or her powers and to perform his or her functions as a trustee of BSHP in the way he or she decides in good faith would be most likely to further the purposes of the Society; and
- (b) to exercise, in the performance of those functions, such care and skill as is reasonable in the circumstances having regard in particular to:
 - (i) Any special knowledge or experience that he or she has or holds himself or herself out as having; and
 - (ii) If he or she acts as a Charity Trustee of BSHP in the course of a business or profession, to any special knowledge or experience that it is reasonable to expect of a person acting in the course of that kind of business or profession.

(2) Eligibility for trusteeship

- (a) Every Charity Trustee must be a natural person.
- (b) No one may be appointed as a Charity Trustee:
 - If he or she is under the age of 16 years; or
 - If he or she would automatically cease to hold office under the provisions of clause 15(1)(f).
 - If he or she is not a member of BSHP.
- (c) No one is entitled to act as a Charity Trustee whether on appointment or on any re-appointment until he or she has expressly acknowledged, in whatever way the Charity Trustees decide, his or her acceptance of the office of Charity Trustee.

(3) Number of Charity Trustees

- (a) There must be at least four Charity Trustees. These will be the Officers of the Society: the President, the Vice-President, the Honorary Treasurer and the Honorary Secretary. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the Charity Trustees, or to appoint a new Charity Trustee.
- (b) The President and Vice-President shall normally be elected by the BSHP membership for a term of one year.
- (c) The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall normally be elected by the BSHP membership for a term of three years.
- (d) In addition, up to eight Ordinary Committee Members shall normally be elected by the BSHP membership for a term of three years.

(e) The Trustees and Ordinary Committee Members may decide to co-opt up to two additional ordinary committee members, bringing the total number of Trustees and Ordinary Committee Members up to a maximum of 14 at any one time.

(4) First Charity Trustees

The first Charity Trustees of BSHP were –
The President – Mr Roy T Allcorn
The Vice-President – Mr Peter G Homan
The Honorary Secretary – Mr Peter G Homan
The Honorary Treasurer – Mrs Deborah Bishop

At the 2017 AGM the Charity Trustees voted for were:
The President – Mr Peter G Homan
The Vice-President - Mr Ainley Wade
The Honorary Secretary – Mr Roy T Allcorn
The Honorary Treasurer – Mrs Deborah Bishop

At the 2019 AGM the Charity Trustees voted for were:
The President – Mr Peter G Homan
The Vice-President – Dr Christopher Duffin
The Honorary Secretary – Mr Roy T Allcorn
The Honorary Treasurer – Mrs Deborah Bishop

At the 2020 AGM the Charity Trustees voted in for 2021 were:
The President – Dr Christopher Duffin
The Vice-President – Professor Mark Nesbitt
The Honorary Secretary – Mr Roy T Allcorn
The Honorary Treasurer – Ms Selina Hurley

At the 2024 AGM the Charity Trustees voted in for 2024 were:
The President – Professor Mark Nesbitt
The Vice-President – Ms Catherine Walker
The Honorary Secretary – Mr Matthew Johnston
The Honorary Treasurer – Dr Jemma Houghton

13. Appointment of Charity Trustees

- (1) At the first Annual General Meeting of the members of the BSHP all the Charity Trustees shall retire from office;
 - (a) at the first Annual General Meeting, and on that occasion only, the Honorary Secretary shall be elected for a term of two years, in order to achieve continuity of service within the Officer roles. The Honorary Secretary's subsequent terms of office shall be three years.
- (2) At every subsequent Annual General Meeting of the BSHP, trustees who have completed their elected terms as specified in clause 12(3) will retire from office;
- (3) The vacancies so arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the Annual General Meeting; any vacancies not filled at the Annual General Meeting may be filled as provided in sub-clause (4) of this clause;
- (4) The members or the Charity Trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new Charity Trustee, whether in place of a Charity Trustee who has retired or been removed in accordance with clause 15 (Retirement and removal of Charity Trustees), or as an additional Charity Trustee, provided that the limit specified in clause 12(3) on the number of Charity Trustees would not as a result be exceeded;
- (5) A person so appointed by the members of BSHP shall retire in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (2) of this clause. A person so appointed by the Charity Trustees shall

retire at the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the Charity Trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

14. Information for new Charity Trustees

The Charity Trustees will make available to each new Charity Trustee, on or before his or her first appointment:

- (a) a copy of this constitution and any amendments made to it; and
- (b) a copy of BSHP's latest Annual Report and statement of accounts.

15. Retirement and removal of Charity Trustees

(1) A Charity Trustee ceases to hold office if he or she:

- (a) Retires by notifying BSHP in writing (but only if enough Charity Trustees will remain in office when the notice of resignation takes effect to form a quorum for meetings);
- (b) Is absent without the permission of the Charity Trustees from all their meetings held within a period of six months and the trustees resolve that his or her office be vacated;
- (c) Dies;
- (d) Becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs;
- (e) Is removed by the members of BSHP in accordance with sub-clause (2) of this clause; or
- (f) Is disqualified from acting as a Charity Trustee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).

(2) A Charity Trustee shall be removed from office if a resolution to remove that trustee is proposed at a General Meeting of the members called for that purpose and properly convened in accordance with clause 11, and the resolution is passed by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the meeting.

(3) A resolution to remove a Charity Trustee in accordance with this clause shall not take effect unless the individual concerned has been given at least 14 clear days' notice in writing that the resolution is to be proposed, specifying the circumstances alleged to justify removal from office, and has been given a reasonable opportunity of making oral and/or written representations to the members of BSHP.

16. Reappointment of Charity Trustees

Any person who retires as a Charity Trustee by rotation or by giving notice to the BSHP is eligible for reappointment. A Charity Trustee who has served for three consecutive terms may not be reappointed for a fourth consecutive term but may be reappointed after an interval of at least three years.

17. Taking of decisions by Charity Trustees

Any decision may be taken either;

- At a meeting of the Charity Trustees
- By resolution in writing or electronic form agreed by all of the Charity Trustees, which may comprise either a single document or several documents containing the text of the

resolution in like form to which one or more Charity Trustees has signified their agreement.

18. Delegation

- (1) The Charity Trustees may delegate any of their powers or functions to a committee or committees, and, if they do, they must determine the terms and conditions on which the delegation is made. The Charity Trustees may at any time alter those terms and conditions, or revoke the delegation.
- (2) This power is in addition to the power of delegation in the General Regulations and any other power of delegation available to the Charity Trustees, but is subject to the following requirements –
 - (a) A committee may consist of two or more persons, but at least one member of each committee must be a Charity Trustee;
 - (b) The acts and proceedings of any committee must be brought to the attention of the Charity Trustees as a whole as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
 - (c) The Charity Trustees shall from time to time review the arrangements which they have made for the delegation of their powers.

19. Meetings and proceedings of Charity Trustees

(1) Calling meetings

- (a) Any Charity Trustee may call a meeting of the Charity Trustees.
- (b) Subject to that, the Charity Trustees shall decide how their meetings are to be called, and what notice is required.

(2) Chairing of meetings

The Charity Trustees may appoint one of their number to chair their meetings and may at any time revoke such appointment. If no-one has been so appointed, or if the person appointed is unwilling to preside or is not present within 10 minutes after the time of the meeting, the Charity Trustees present may appoint another one of their number to chair that meeting.

(3) Procedure at meetings

- (a) No decision shall be taken at a meeting unless a quorum is present at the time when the decision is taken. The quorum is two Charity Trustees, or the number nearest to one third of the total number of Charity Trustees, whichever is greater, or such larger number as the Charity Trustees may decide from time to time. A Charity Trustee shall not be counted in the quorum present when any decision is made about a matter upon which he or she is not entitled to vote.
- (b) Questions arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of those eligible to vote.
- (c) In the case of an equality of votes, the chair shall have a second or casting vote.

(4) Participation in meetings by electronic means

- (a) A meeting may be held by suitable electronic means agreed by the Charity Trustees in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.
- (b) Any Charity Trustee participating at a meeting by suitable electronic means agreed by the Charity Trustees in which a participant or participants may communicate with all the other participants shall qualify as being present at the meeting.
- (c) Meetings held by electronic means must comply with rules for meetings, including chairing and the taking of minutes.

20. Saving provisions

(1) Subject to sub-clause (2) of this clause, all decisions of the Charity Trustees, or of a committee of Charity Trustees, shall be valid notwithstanding the participation in any vote of a Charity Trustee;

- Who was disqualified from holding office;
- Who had previously retired or who had been obliged by the constitution to vacate office
- Who was not entitled to vote on the matter, whether by reason of a conflict of interest or otherwise;

If, without the vote of that Charity Trustee and that Charity Trustee being counted in the quorum, the decision has been made by a majority of the Charity Trustees at a quorate meeting.

(2) Sub-clause (1) of this clause does not permit a Charity Trustee to keep any benefit that may be conferred upon him or her by a resolution of the Charity Trustees or of a committee of Charity Trustees if, but for clause (1), the resolution would have been void, or if the Charity Trustee has not complied with clause 7 (Conflicts of interest).

21. Execution of Documents

(1) The BSHP shall execute documents by signature.

(2) A document is validly executed by signature if it is signed by at least two of the charity trustees.

22. Use of electronic communication

(1) General

BSHP will comply with the requirements of the Communications Provisions in the General Regulations and in particular:

- (a) The requirement to provide within 21 days to any member on request a hard copy of any document or information sent to the member otherwise than in hard copy form;
- (b) Any requirements to provide information to the Commission in a particular form or manner.

(2) To the BSHP

Any member or Charity Trustee of BSHP may communicate electronically with the Society to an address specified by the Society for the purpose, so long as the communication is authenticated in a manner which is satisfactory to BSHP.

(3) By the BSHP

- (a) Any member or Charity Trustee of BSHP, by providing the Society with his or her e-mail address or similar, is taken to have agreed to receive communications from BSHP in electronic form at that address, unless the member has indicated to the Society his or her unwillingness to receive such communications in that form.
- (b) The Charity Trustees may, subject to compliance with any legal requirements, by means of publication on its website –
 - (i) Provide the members with the notice referred to in clause 11(3) (Notice of General Meetings);

- (ii) Give Charity Trustees notice of their meetings in accordance with clause 19(1) (Calling meetings); and
 - (iii) Submit any proposal to the members or Charity Trustees for decision by written resolution or postal vote in accordance with BSHP's powers under clause 10 (Members' decisions)
- (c) The Charity Trustees must:
- (i) Take reasonable steps to ensure that members and Charity Trustees are promptly notified of the publication of any such notice or proposal;
 - (ii) Send any such notice or proposal in hard copy form to any member or Charity Trustee who has not consented to receive communications in electronic form.

23. Keeping of Registers

BSHP must comply with its obligations under the General Regulations in relation to the keeping of, and provision of access to, registers of its members and Charity Trustees.

24. Minutes

The Charity Trustees must keep minutes of all:

- (1) Appointments of officers made by the Charity Trustees;
- (2) Proceedings at BSHP General Meetings;
- (3) Meetings of the Charity Trustees and committees of Charity Trustees including:
 - The names of the trustees present at the meeting;
 - The decisions made at the meetings; and
 - Where appropriate the reasons for the decisions;
- (4) Decisions made by the Charity Trustees otherwise than in meetings.

25. Accounting records, accounts, annual reports and returns, register maintenance

(1) The Charity Trustees must comply with the requirements of Part 6 of the Charities Act 1993 with regard to the keeping of accounting records, to the preparation and scrutiny of statements of accounts, and to the preparation of annual reports and returns. The statements of accounts, reports and returns must be sent to the Charity Commission, regardless of BSHP's income, within 10 months of the financial year end.

(2) the Charity Trustees must inform the Commission within 28 days of any change in the particulars of BSHP entered on the Central Register of Charities.

26. Rules

The Charity Trustees may from time to time make such reasonable and proper rules or by laws as they may deem necessary or expedient for the proper conduct and management of BSHP, but such rules or by laws must not be inconsistent with any provision of this constitution. Copies of any such rules or bye laws currently in force must be made available to any BSHP member on request.

27. Disputes

If a dispute arises between members of BSHP about the validity or propriety of anything done by the members under this constitution, and the dispute cannot be resolved by agreement, the parties to the dispute must first try in good faith to settle the dispute by mediation before resorting to litigation.

28. Amendment of constitution

As provided by clauses 14 and 15 of Schedule 5b to the Charities Act 1993:

- (1) This constitution can only be amended by resolution passed by a 75% majority of votes cast at a General Meeting of the members of the Society.
- (2) Any alteration of clause 3 (Objects), clause 29 (Voluntary winding up or dissolution), this clause, or of any provision where the alteration would provide authorisation for any benefit to be obtained by Charity Trustees or members of BSHP or persons connected with them, requires the prior written consent of the Charity Commission.
- (3) No amendment that is inconsistent with the provisions of the Charities Act 1993 or the General Regulations shall be valid.
- (4) A copy of any resolution altering the constitution, together with a copy of the BSHP's constitution as amended, must be sent to the Commission within 15 days from the date on which the resolution is passed. The amendment does not take effect until it has been recorded in the Register of Charities.

29. Voluntary winding up or dissolution

(1) As provided by the Dissolution Regulations, BSHP may be dissolved by resolution of its members. Any decision by the members to wind up or dissolve BSHP can only be made:

- (a) at a General Meeting of the BSHP members called in accordance with clause 11 (Meetings of Members), of which not less than 14 days' notice has been given to those eligible to attend and vote:
 - (i) by a resolution passed by a 75% majority of those voting, or
 - (ii) by a resolution passed by decision taken without a vote and without any expression of dissent in response to the question being put to the General Meeting;or
- (b) a resolution agreed in writing by all members of the BSHP.

(2) Subject to the payment of all BSHP's debts:

- (a) Any resolution for the winding up of BSHP, or for the dissolution of the Society without winding up, may contain a provision directing how any remaining assets of BSHP shall be applied.
- (b) If the resolution does not contain such a provision, the Charity Trustees must decide how any remaining assets of BSHP shall be applied.
- (c) In either case the remaining assets must be applied for charitable purposes the same as or similar to those of BSHP.

(3) The Society must observe the requirements of the Dissolution Regulations in applying to the Commission for BSHP to be removed from the Register of Charities, and in particular:

- (a) The Charity Trustees must send with their application to the Commission:
 - (i) a copy of the resolution passed by the members of BSHP;
 - (ii) a declaration by the Charity Trustees that any debts and other liabilities of BSHP have been settled or otherwise provided in full; and
 - (iii) a statement by the Charity Trustees setting out the way in which any property of BSHP has been or is to be applied prior to its dissolution in accordance with this constitution;
- (b) The Charity Trustees must ensure that a copy of the application is sent within seven days to every member and employee of BSHP, and to any Charity Trustee of the Society who was not privy to the application.

(4) If BSHP is to be wound up or dissolved in any other circumstances, the provisions of the Dissolution Regulations must be followed.

30. **Interpretation**

In this constitution:

“Connected person” means:

- (a) A child, parent, grandchild, grandparent, brother or sister of the Charity Trustee;
- (b) The spouse or civil partner of the Charity Trustee or of any person falling within paragraph (a) above;
- (c) A person carrying on business in partnership with the Charity Trustees or with any person falling within paragraph (a) or (b) above; or
- (d) An institution which is controlled-
 - (i) By the Charity Trustee or any connected person falling within paragraph (a), (b), or (c) above; or
 - (ii) By two or more persons falling within sub-paragraph (d) (i), when taken together
- (e) A body corporate in which –
 - (i) The Charity Trustee or any connected person falling within paragraphs (a) to (c) has a substantial interest; or
 - (ii) Two or more persons falling within sub-paragraph (e) (i) who, when taken together, have a substantial interest.

Paragraphs 2 to 4 of Schedule 5 to the Charities Act 1993 apply for the purposes of interpreting the terms used in this constitution.

“**General Regulations**” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2011.

“**Dissolution Regulations**” means the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Insolvency and Dissolution) Regulations 2011.

“**Communications Provisions**” means the Communications Provisions in [Part 10, Chapter 4] of the General Regulations.

“**Charity Trustee**” means a Charity Trustee of the BSHP.

A “**poll**” means a counted vote or ballot, usually (but not necessarily) in writing.