

## 1. The Council of the British Society of Soil Science

- 1.1 The British Society of Soil Science (BSSS) is a membership organisation whose mission is 'to advance the study of soil and to promote a better understanding of soil, nationally and internationally.' BSSS is a company limited by guarantee under The Companies Act 2006. It is also a Registered Charity (No. 1134456) under the Charity Act 2006. The Governing Documents for the Society are the **Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association** (the Articles) incorporated on 21 December 2009 and **Bye-Laws** adopted by the Trustee Board on 1 November 2017.
- 1.2 Under 12.1 of the Bye-Laws, the Trustees shall establish a committee of the Trustee Board called the Council.
- 1.3 As defined under 12.1 of the Bye-Laws, the Council represents the Members of the Society.
- 1.4 Details of membership and a Code of Conduct for Members of the Society are set out in the Society's Governing Documents above.

## 2. Functions of the Council

- 2.1 In accordance with 12.1 of the Bye-Laws, the role of the Council is to discharge the operational management of the Society. The objectives of Council shall include:
  - (a) developing the annual strategy and workplan
  - (b) promoting the study and understanding of soils and soil science in their broadest context
  - (c) providing opportunities for members of the society to develop and exchange knowledge, understanding and interest in soils and soil science and each other and interested parties
  - (d) maintaining and developing the relationships with other soil science societies globally and with the International Union of Soil Scientists
  - (e) ensuring any projects committed to are completed on time and to budget
  - (f) engaging with the wider public and responsibility for the external communication of the society
  - (g) fostering regional and special interest groups within the membership
  - (h) providing opportunities for members of the society to take part in public consultations
  - (i) developing and maintaining public awareness of soil science and the profession.
- 2.2 The day-to-day operations of the Society shall be undertaken by the executive office based on the strategy set out by Council.

## 3. Council Members

- 3.1 The Council shall have the following members:
  - a) the President, Immediate Past President and President Elect
  - b) Chair of the Early Careers Committee
  - c) Chair of the Publications Committee
  - d) The Editors of the Society Journals
  - e) The Chair of the Professional Practice Committee
  - f) Chair of the Education Committee
  - g) Chairs of the Regional Groups: South East England, South West England, Midlands, Scottish and Welsh Discussion Groups and the North of England Soil Network
  - h) The Executive Officer

- i) Three members elected by the Members of the Society in accordance with the Bye-Laws and
- j) Other members co-opted on to Council in accordance with the Bye-Laws.

- 3.2 Council members may hold more than one position on Council.
- 3.3 All members of the Council must be Society members in good standing.
- 3.4 Other members may be co-opted to Council on an ad-hoc basis as deemed appropriate by Council. Co-opted members are subject to the same term of office as other Council members.

## 4. Method of Working

- 4.1 The Chair of the Council shall be the President of the Society. The President should not usually hold the office of President for more than two years in succession and their election shall be carried out in accordance with the Bye-Laws.
- 4.2 The outgoing Chair shall be succeeded by the President Elect.
- 4.3 In the absence of the President, meetings should be Chaired by the Immediate Past President.
- 4.4 Council members shall not hold their post for more than three years.
- 4.5 Nominations for the Chair of any standing committee should be submitted to a Council meeting by the current Chair of that committee. The BSSS Council should ratify the proposal and an election should take place at the next General Meeting.
- 4.6 Nominations for Ordinary Council Members should be submitted by the applicants to the Executive Officer and applications will be reviewed at the next Council meeting. Council should nominate its preferred candidate(s) and an election should take place at the next General Meeting.
- 4.7 A minimum of 50% of Council members is required to make the meeting quorate.
- 4.8 The committee must be quorate to ratify proposed Committee Chairs.
- 4.9 The Chairs of each Committee are expected to report to the Council on the progress made towards the Society's strategy, at least once in every financial year of the Society.
- 4.10 The Council Chair is expected to report to the Trustee Board on the progress made towards the Society's strategy, at least once in every financial year of the Society.

## 5.0 Committee Operations

- 5.1 The Council may from time-to-time instruct new task and finish groups to undertake work on behalf of the Council.
- 5.2 All members of Council have one vote.
- 5.3 Council members will be expected to declare a conflict of interest if any arises from the agenda or in the process of a meeting. They will at that time withdraw themselves from discussion and they will not be eligible to vote.
- 5.4 In the case of a tied vote, the Chair shall have the casting vote.
- 5.5 As required, Council will review proposals for changes of committee operating methods or processes in light of external or internal factors.
- 5.6 Council will propose a budget for agreement by the Board on an annual basis.
- 5.7 Any request for additional funds which were not budgeted for, must be raised by the Chair with the Board prior to any additional spend.

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