



WADHURST BRASS BAND BAND MEMBER HANDBOOK

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ABOUT THE BAND AND WELCOME

Welcome to Wadhurst Brass Band. We are delighted to have you as a member and we hope that you enjoy playing, rehearsing and being part of a great band with an amazing history.

We are a non-competitive, amateur community brass band, which owes its life to Algy Hoare BEM, who as a woodwork teacher at the local secondary school, now known as [Uplands Academy](https://www.uplandsacademy.org/), introduced brass lessons in the 1950s and started a school band in 1957, in his lunch breaks. This is the band that went on to evolve into the 'Wadhurst Brass Band' of which you are now a member. More details about the history of the band can be found on our website at wadhurstbrassband.org/the-brass-band.

This handbook is a reference guide to the Band's current practices, policies and procedures, and members are asked to note items highlighted in green boxes.

We hope that you will enjoy being part of our banding family.

Band Practice

Where: Drama Studio at Uplands Academy, Lower High Street, Wadhurst TN5 6AZ
When: Main Band – every Thursday 19:45 - 21:20* (arrive no earlier than 19:30.
L-Plate Brass – every Thursday during term-time 18:45 - 19:30, when numbers allow.

* *There are no rehearsals in December after the Christmas concert, when we sometimes take a two-week break in August.*

Members are expected to attend as many rehearsals as possible, especially ahead of main concerts.

Concerts and Engagements

We arrange at least three main concerts a year in Wadhurst:

- Spring (*around Easter time*).
- Autumn (*usually late September/early October in support of chosen charity*).
- Christmas (*usually the first Saturday in December*).

Members are asked to ensure they are available to play at the main concerts.

We also enjoy busy summer and Christmas seasons at fetes and events as well as playing at several private bookings throughout the year.

We have played at some brilliant venues across East Sussex and West Kent over the years such as Eastbourne and Sevenoaks bandstands, The Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells, Pashley Manor, The Hop Farm, Hever Castle, Chartwell, Chevening House, Penshurst and Tonbridge Castle. We have even played in the Greyhound Pub (unfortunately now closed) in Wadhurst for BBC Radio 5 Live and at the White Hart, Wadhurst for Channel 5's Best Place to Live in the UK.

Our varied repertoire includes popular film, TV and musicals theme music, light classical and of course traditional brass band music.

Social Events

As well as our playing engagements, we also arrange social events throughout the year, the main one being our Christmas/New Year party and we usually arrange a summer get together. Other events arranged over the years have included trips to the [Whit Walks](#), quiz nights and block bookings to hear top brass bands such as The Cory Band play at local concert venues.

Tours

We have enjoyed several overseas tours to Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. These are usually arranged over a long weekend during the school summer holidays, to play at pre-arranged venues in local parks and festivals. They provide a great opportunity to introduce traditional brass band music to continental audiences and for the band to spend time together letting our hair down.

SHEET 2: COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEERING

Algy Hoare BEM is the Honorary Life President of Wadhurst Brass Band and receives committee papers. He is not subject to election at the AGM.

Band members elect a committee to take responsibility for Wadhurst Brass Band affairs, manage its activities, ensure its legal and financial obligations are met, and provide a point of contact for band members and external stakeholders.

Role	Current Member
Musical Director	Lewis Kemp
Band Chair	Martin Healy manager@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk
Band Manager	Vacant manager@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk
Treasurer	Martin Healy
Engagement Secretary	Graham Brant engagements@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk
Instruments & Uniform	Paul Terry
Librarian	Denise Beedell
Minutes Secretary	Vacant
Player Liaison	Kate Hopkins kateehopkins@hotmail.com
Child Protection Officer	Sam Daly cpo@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk ; samdaly2000@hotmail.com
General Committee members	Andy Chisnall Catherine Sleep-Thomas

Other activities undertaken by volunteers, drawn from players and supporters are:

- L-Plate Brass: Vacant training@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk
- Concert assistance: Roger Bates, Dean Vidler, Catherine Whitehead
- Photography and videography: Merlin Beedell
- Print management: Denise Beedell
- Ticket sales: John Whitehead tickets@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk
- Webmaster: Kate Hopkins, Tristan Beedell

No member of the committee or any volunteers are paid for the work they undertake on behalf of the band. The band will pay reasonable expenses incurred by band members that have been agreed **in advance** by the Band Chair.

There are always lots of jobs to do, especially for concerts and tours, and all help is much appreciated. If you'd like to get more involved or have a skillset you feel could benefit the band, then please speak to a committee member.

General Meetings

The Band holds an annual general meeting (AGM) in first quarter of the year, starting at 7:30pm, ahead of band practice at Uplands Academy.

At the AGM we hear reports from key officers of the band, adopt the accounts for the preceding financial year and elect committee members.

The date of the AGM will be notified to members no less than two weeks before the meeting by email, verbal notices at band practice.

Members wishing to put themselves forward for a position on the committee must contact the Band Chair in writing at least seven days before the AGM, indicating which role they wish to stand for.

Members are elected to the committee by a show of hands on the night of the AGM, conducted by the Honorary Life President or a non-committee member.

SHEET 3: COMMUNICATIONS

All members are asked to provide up to date contact details to the Engagement Secretary. The Band Chair will also have access to this list. Emergency information including contact details/next of kin will be shared with committee members. Ideally, all members should provide at least an email address and current phone number, but if they do not have an email, then a full correspondence address must be provided.

This information is used to keep members up to date with details of forthcoming engagements, notices about band activities, to manage any instrument or uniform loan, in case of illness or accident and for general contact purposes. It is held in accordance with Wadhurst Brass Band's GDPR and Data Security Policy (see Policies section).

Engagements

Attendance at engagements is managed by a spreadsheet, circulated by email from time to time by the Engagement Secretary. For those not able to receive emails, please speak to the Engagement Secretary at band practice about your availability.

Members are asked to ensure they:

- Provide up to date contact details to the Engagement Secretary, including emergency contacts/next of kin.
- Add the Engagement Secretary's email to their contact list to avoid emails being blocked or sent to junk folders.
- Respond promptly to enquiries about availability from the Engagement Secretary.
- Make every effort to commit to the main concerts highlighted on the spreadsheet.
- Discuss availability within sections to ensure sufficient sectional cover, especially for paid engagements.
- Inform the Engagement Secretary of any unexpected absences at the earliest opportunity to allow time to arrange cover if necessary.

We advertise our main concerts on posters around Wadhurst, including very large roadside posters at Mark Cross, by the Rope Walk and at the Upper High Street end of the village. Small posters are produced and distributed for display by local businesses and other outlets.

Copies of the small posters can be supplied to members wishing to display one in their vehicles, or on noticeboards known to them. Please contact the Band Chair to obtain supplies.

Website

Wadhurst Brass Band maintains its own website www.wadhurstbrassband.org. We publish pictures from our engagements, post links to YouTube videos of excerpts from our performances, as well as contact details, news items and links to our social media feeds.

Social Media

Wadhurst Brass Band operates a Facebook page and Twitter feed on the same handle: @WadhurstBrass.

We would be delighted if members can follow both feeds and share notices about forthcoming engagements, when possible.

The band also operates a Wadhurst Brass Band WhatsApp group. This is used to remind members of details for forthcoming engagements, share appropriate member news, post bad weather notices or last-minute changes to engagements, events or rehearsals.

Members wishing to be added to the Band's WhatsApp group should contact the Band Chair.

Members are asked to be thoughtful and considerate about their posts on the Band's WhatsApp group; inappropriate posts will be removed.

Focus Magazine

Wadhurst Brass Band has a regular article in Wadhurst's Parish Magazine. Recent articles are also posted on the Wadhurst Brass Band website for interest.

Village Notice Board

Wadhurst Brass Band have an enclosed notice board sited near to Delicatus on the High Street in Wadhurst.

If members spot any errors or typos on the Band's website or social media feeds or become aware of any negative media comment about the band on the band's sites or elsewhere, please let the Band Chair know as soon as possible.

SHEET 4: L-PLATE BRASS

L-Plate Brass is the training arm of Wadhurst Brass Band and is open to all ages. The only requirement is that players can read music. Instruments can be provided (See Instruments in Policies Section) as well as basic introductory tuition. It is managed by a sub-committee of supporting members and parents.

Players seeking further tuition can contact Wadhurst Brass Band's Musical Director for details about paid lessons.

****We are currently seeking a new conductor and committee for L-Plate Brass, so no rehearsals are currently being held. This is a temporary situation that we hope to resolve soon. When this has been resolved, rehearsals will resume ahead of the main band rehearsal (see Activities section for details).****

Members who are interested in conducting L-Plate Brass or who know of someone who may be interested, please contact the Musical Director or email training@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk.

We keep a record of the attendance of all players under 18 years of age at rehearsals and engagements.

At engagements we will designate a responsible adult, not involved in playing, to supervise players from when they arrive at the venue to when they leave with their parents or guardians, and to keep a record of the times that the young people are performing.

Child Protection Policy

This policy, agreed by the committee of Wadhurst Brass band (the Band) who are responsible for its affairs, commits the Band to the following statement of policy. Provisions relating to children and young people shall also apply, where consistent, in relation to any vulnerable adults who may become members of the Band.

- In all activities of the Band involving children and young people, the welfare of the child is paramount.
- All children and young people who are members of the Band have the right to protection from abuse regardless of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or beliefs.
- Parents/guardians of children and young people under 18 are responsible for ensuring their children are collected on time from band rehearsals, engagements and activities.
- If alternative travel arrangements have been agreed involving other members of the band, then written confirmation must be provided by the parent to the Band Chair beforehand.
- This policy applies to all members of the Band, its officers, committee members and others with positions of authority in or representing the Band.
- Children and young people and their parents are informed of the policy and procedures as appropriate.
- All concerns and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously by officers, committee members and others in positions of authority and responded to appropriately including by referral to Safeguarding Adults Services or Children's Services and, in emergencies, to the Police.
- The Band is committed to safe recruitment, selection and vetting of officers and members who work with young people who are members of the band.
- The Band will comply with the principles, legislation and guidance underlying the safeguarding of children including health and safety and anti-bullying.
- The Child Protection policy and procedures of the Band will be reviewed by the Band Committee on an annual basis, usually at the first committee meeting after the Annual General Meeting.

Attendance at social activities such as after-rehearsal visits to local public houses is an enjoyable element of band life for many members; however, parents/guardians who are happy for their child/children under 18 years old to participate in such activities must ensure they are accompanied by a designated adult.

Wadhurst Brass Band's Child Protection Officer is Sam Daly and she can be emailed at cpo@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk or samdaly2000@hotmail.com or telephone numbers 01580 878187 or 07722797330.

If any member of the band is concerned that abuse has occurred, or may occur to themselves or another person, they should refer the matter immediately to the Child Protection Officer or, if they are unavailable or the complaint relates to the conduct of the Child Protection Officer, to the Band Chair or another committee member of trust.

The Child Protection Officer or other person receiving a complaint must not conduct any investigation but should refer the complaint as soon as possible to the Band Chair and to Social Services and/or, in case of emergency, to the Police.

Other useful contacts are:

- **East Sussex County Council** - Child Protection and Safeguarding Duty and Assessment Team West (for Eastbourne, Lewes and Wealden). Phone: 01323 464222.
- **Childline** - childline.org.uk
Phone: 0800 1111

Any member of the band who finds themselves in a compromising situation should immediately withdraw from that situation and speak to a trusted friend or seek other advice about it. Similarly, anyone who observes another band member putting themselves at risk of an allegation should speak to the member concerned or to the Child Protection Officer.

A copy of the Child Protection Policy can be downloaded at wadhurstbrassband.org/contact.

General Data Protection Regulation and Data Security Policy

All members of Wadhurst Brass Band and L-Plate Brass are reminded that as part of their membership, the committee may hold vital contact information. This information is held subject to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became law on 25 May 2018. We need to collect and store some of your details, for example your name, telephone number and email address, so that we can let you know about things like rehearsal and engagement dates, tours and social events.

We collect some of the following types of data from members (we don't collect all this data on all members – we only collect it if it's needed):

- Name
- Email address
- Postal address
- Phone number
- Emergency contact details/next of kin
- Age/Date of birth
- Gender
- Dietary and access requirements
- Emergency health issues/allergies
- Criminal records check (other than those spent under the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and the Exceptions Order 1975 and any subsequent statutory amendments.)

For members on tour:

- Nationality
- Passport information
- Special accommodation, dietary and access needs

We check what data we have on members every two years and remove it if we no longer need it. If you leave the group, we'll make sure we stop using and/or delete any data we don't need to keep, only keeping information we may need to keep (e.g. under 18's attendance at rehearsals for child protection purposes).

Any of the information listed above might be needed to manage your membership with Wadhurst Brass Band and to organise and run our activities. The legal basis for processing this information is "Legitimate Interest".

We won't ever use this data for anything else unless you give us your active consent for that additional use. This is done using the Privacy Statement provided to all members.

If you give us your consent, Wadhurst Brass Band will add your email to our mailing list for the group's communications. You can withdraw your consent at any point by contacting the Band Chair who is the designated Data Protection on manager@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk.

- We will never give your data to third parties for that third party to use without your explicit consent in writing (e.g. photographs for press use).

- We will sometimes use third party services (e.g. Google Drive) to store or process your data.
- We will always make sure that they are reputable and secure, and that your data is kept safe.
- If another member of Wadhurst Brass Band asks for your contact details, we will only ever share them if you consent in writing.

We collect photos and video footage from rehearsals and performances involving Wadhurst Brass Band. These are uploaded to our website and social media pages and may be used in our printed marketing material.

We check every two years that any photos or video footage we have is still needed and/or relevant, and we'll make sure we stop using and/or delete any photos or video footage that is no longer needed.

We will make sure you are aware when photos or video footage are being taken. We use photos and video footage for use in our publicity material, e.g. Wadhurst Brass Band website, social media pages, YouTube, concert posters and other printed publicity material.

We will not use photos and video footage in which individuals are identifiable without your consent. If you give us your consent, we may use photos and video footage in which individuals are identifiable.

Members are asked to read, sign and return the privacy statement provided to the Band Chair (the document is also available at www.wadhurstbrassband.org)

Any questions about the data which Wadhurst Brass Band holds for you, to update, correct, opt out of using your data or erase it, please email manager@wadhurstbrassband.co.uk who will respond within one month.

Member Conduct Policy

Wadhurst Brass Band is a non-competing, community band where we welcome players of all abilities to enjoy music making in a safe and relaxed environment. Behaviour that does not contribute to our ethos is not tolerated.

Members are expected to support fellow band members so that everyone can enjoy rehearsals, engagements and social events without concern that they could be made to feel uncomfortable or anxious about being part of the band.

We ask that all members abide by our codes of conduct.

Code of Conduct for Adult Members

By observing some simple obligations and behaviours the adult members can enhance the overall quality of the band so that participation is safe and enjoyable, especially for children and young people.

Please:

- Treat everyone with respect and dignity.
- Ensure that other members' welfare and safety are paramount at all times, especially where children and young people are concerned.
- Bullying, swearing or other disruptive behaviour will not be tolerated.
- Liaise openly with parents and carers where appropriate.
- Only use physical contact with children and young people if absolutely necessary
- Avoid being alone with children or young people at all times.
- Where lifts to and/or from rehearsals are provided by members other than the parent/guardian of the young person, written consent from the parent or guardian must be obtained and forwarded to the Band Chair beforehand.
- Adult band members may only give junior band members lifts home, not to any other location, after rehearsals or engagements.
- Adult band members should not act as chaperones for junior band members in social situations. In these instances, young members under 18 years old are the responsibility of their parent or guardian.
- Listen to, and act upon, any disclosure, allegation or concerns of child abuse (physical, mental or sexual).
- Attend such training as the band committee consider necessary.
- Alcohol or tobacco products must not be obtained for children or young people under 18 years of age.
- Illegal activities, including drug, use will not be tolerated at any activity connected with the band.
- Help to make band activities fun and enjoyable for all.

Code of Conduct for Young Members

Until you are 18 years old the band has certain legal responsibilities for your welfare while you are taking part in band activities. We know that you would like the band to be a safe and enjoyable place to be.

Adult members of the band have a code of conduct to make the band safe and enjoyable, especially for children and young people. But young members have responsibilities too. By working together, all members of any age, can enhance the overall quality of enjoyment we all get from our band.

Please:

- Treat everyone how you would like to be treated.
- Arrive on time for your lesson, rehearsal or concert with the correct clothes, music and equipment, including your instrument and mouthpiece.
- Tell somebody if there is something you do not like.
- Do not consume alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs at any activities connected with the band or ask any other member of the band to obtain them for you.
- Ensure you abide by alternative travel arrangements made by your parent/guardian submitted to the Band Chair.
- Lend a helping hand around the band room.

Instruments and Equipment Policy

Wadhurst Brass Band keeps a full set of brass instruments for free loan to members wishing to play with the band that do not have their own instrument, or who wish to try a new instrument. Instruments can be provided for use by individual players. Members are responsible for cleaning and everyday maintenance of borrowed instruments.

Members wishing to borrow a band instrument, must complete and sign a consent form, recording your name, contact details, details of the instrument, including make, serial number and whether it comes with a mouthpiece. This information will be kept by the Instrument and Uniform Secretary.

Instruments are lent on the understanding that members are responsible for keeping the instrument secure, regular cleaning and everyday maintenance (information on how to do this properly can be provided), and that any damage to the instrument or case, however minor, is reported for immediate attention to the Instrument and Uniform Secretary.

Wadhurst Brass Band has its own music stands, bannerettes, stand lights, mutes and mutes stands, which are used at band practices and engagements. A stand can be lent to players to take home if required.

The band will pay for minor repairs to instruments and equipment within reason. However, should there be regular and recurring damage, the committee reserve the right to ask for a contribution towards the costs, or in extreme cases of negligence or damage, to ask for the return or replacement of the instrument or equipment.

A quote must be obtained for the cost of any repairs and passed to the Instrument and Uniform Secretary to authorise. No band instrument should be submitted for repair unless authorised. The band use Justyna McEwan Woodwind and Brass Repairs, 6 Old Timber Yard, Groombridge Ln, Rotherfield, Eridge TN3 9LB Telephone: 01892 457767.

In the event of a member resigning or being absent for a period of more than three months the member must make timely arrangements for the instrument to returned, cleaned and polished and in good working order.

Instrument and Equipment Insurance

All Wadhurst Brass Band instruments and equipment are covered by insurance for theft or loss, subject to normal insurance terms and conditions, e.g. making sure instrument is always kept in a safe and secure place, such as a locked vehicle.

Members who use their own instrument should make their own provision for appropriate insurance cover (payable by the member) when involved with Wadhurst Brass Band activities.

Member Uniform Policy

We get many compliments about how smart we look at our performances and we would like to keep those comments coming in. We have two uniform codes. A formal one for concerts, bandstands and some private engagements, and informal for engagements where tailored jackets etc. would be inappropriate. Members will always be advised of the dress code prior to the engagement.

Formal Uniform	
Male	Female
Black jacket * §	Black jacket * §
Black smart trousers (not jeans)	Black smart trousers (not leggings, jeans or jeggings) <i>Or</i> Black knee-length tailored skirt
Plain white standard collar shirt *	Plain white blouse *
Black bow tie * Pocket handkerchief *	Scarf and clip *
Black socks Black shoes	Black socks (with trousers) Black shoes <i>Or</i> Plain black or tan tights (with skirt)
Informal Uniform	
Band polo shirt *	Band polo shirt *
Black trousers or jeans (not ripped or frayed) <i>Or</i> Black knee-length tailored shorts	Black trousers, jeans or leggings (not ripped or frayed) <i>Or</i> Black knee-length tailored skirt or shorts
Band fleece *	Band fleece *
Appropriate footwear that is in a neutral colour without obvious logos, bright colours or sparkles, e.g. plain green or black wellies for events held in a muddy field.	

* *Items marked with an asterisk are provided by the band (subject to availability).*

§ *An appropriate lapel pin may be worn as long as it is unobtrusive and appropriate, such as a small poppy on Remembrance Sunday.*

NB: For the Christmas concert female members vote annually on wearing formal uniform or evening dress.

The informal uniform has been introduced to ensure members are comfortable while playing in extreme weather and members are asked to dress appropriately, remembering that they are representing the band, will be seated and viewed by the public.

Members are asked to:

- look after their uniform keeping it clean, smart and uncrumpled.
- iron scarves and handkerchiefs before a concert.

If any part of the uniform provided by the band is lost or damaged, the player must cover the cost of replacement. For high-cost items, payment may be made by instalments if requested.

Members of the band under 21 years of age, will be provided with replacement items they have outgrown, subject to availability.
The Uniform and Equipment Secretary will ask for your sizes and keep an inventory of who has what pieces of uniform.

SHEET 6: RULES AND CONSTITUTION

Rules and constitution of Wadhurst Brass Band

Aims of the Band

1. The Band, which shall be known as Wadhurst Brass Band, exists for the benefit and musical enjoyment of the members, to promote and further the cause of Brass Bands, and to enhance the cultural activities of the locality.
2. The objective of the Band is to improve the musical ability of its members and to give encouragement to the development of young musicians both within the Band and in neighbouring schools.
3. The Band will endeavour to provide all its members with instruments.
4. The Band shall be independent and self-supporting and may charge a fee for engagements at the Committee's discretion. The fee may be reduced or waived for charitable events.

Membership

1. Anyone may apply for membership of the Band. Applicants will play as directed by the Musical Director, subject to the approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld, of the Committee.
2. An annual subscription shall be paid. *See amendments 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.
3. All paid-up Members will be eligible to vote at General Meetings and eligible for election to the Committee.
4. The Band expects a high level of attendance and commitment to rehearsals, home practice and engagements.
5. A high standard of dress on engagements, of punctuality and personal conduct, and in the care of the Band's music and equipment is required at all times.

Subscriptions * see amendments 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6

1. Subscriptions will be paid annually. Rates will be set each year and agreed by majority vote at the Annual General Meeting.
2. The categories are:
 - a. Full Membership - 100%
 - b. Full time education - Free
2. Subscriptions become payable immediately following the AGM.

Management

1. The Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, Bandmaster, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and three committee members to be elected each year at the AGM. No more than one member of a given family may be elected. * See amendment 3
2. The Band Committee will deal with all matters relating to the Band and the management of its activities. Wherever practicable, the Committee will canvass opinion of all Band members on important issues. However, committee decisions are final.
3. Decisions will be reached after full discussion by majority vote.
4. A quorum of four must be present at any one meeting.
5. Committee Meetings will be held when required (but not less than quarterly) under the direction of the Chairperson. In the Chairperson's absence the Committee present will elect a Chairperson for that meeting.
6. All present at meetings should have equal opportunity to voice their point of view prior to proposals being accepted by the Chair. All proposals should be proposed and seconded before voting, the Chairperson having a casting vote in the event of a tie.
7. Minutes of the Committee Meetings shall be kept by the Secretary and be accessible to all members on request.
8. The Band will hold an Annual General Meeting in the first quarter of the year. An Emergency General Meeting may be called by any member of the Band, if they have the support of two other members and have notified the Committee in writing at least two weeks prior to the proposed date of the Emergency Meeting.

Finance

1. Fees for engagements shall be determined by the Committee.
2. All income is to be used in accordance with aims of the Band and for the purchase of instruments, music and accessories, and to meet the overheads of the band. Purchases in excess of £100 must be approved by the Committee. Purchases up to £100 must be approved by an Officer of the Band.
3. The Treasurer will provide regular financial statements to the Committee and will provide annually year-to-date accounts for audit and distribution to the members no less than two weeks prior to the AGM.
4. The annual accounts will be audited by a suitably qualified independent person prior to the AGM.

Property

1. All instruments, music and accessories in the care of members remain the property of the Band.
2. Whilst the Band will undertake to insure its assets, there is a duty of care upon members in accordance with the terms of such insurance.
3. Band members with band instruments are responsible for their general care and maintenance. Instruments must be kept clean and regularly washed through. Slides and valves should be kept well-lubricated.

Winding up

1. The Band shall appoint two Trustees to have responsibility for the disposal, in accordance with the winding-up conditions, of the assets of the Band. These Trustees can be committee members.
2. If at a General Meeting it is decided to terminate the activities of the band, the Trustees will assume control at that time.
3. Their first duty is to freeze all assets and to recall all property.
4. After payment of all outstanding debts the assets and property shall be safeguarded until the band may re-form.
5. If after a period of three years the Band is not re-formed the Trustees will dispose of all the assets.
6. In accordance with the Aims of the Band these assets will be distributed locally to be put to the best possible use.

Making Amendments

1. Changes to the Policy, Constitution or Rules of the Band must be voted on by the full membership, a simple majority vote deciding, the Chairperson having a casting vote in the event of a tie.
2. Questions of interpretation of the Constitution shall be decided by the Chairperson. The Chair's ruling shall be final.

Amendments to the above constitution

1. Membership - an amendment was passed unanimously, at the AGM on 5th February 2004, to remove paragraph 2 under Membership [An annual subscription shall be paid] and replaced with "A weekly raffle will take place at band rehearsals, each ticket will cost £1 and the sum raised will replace membership fees" This will be reviewed at each AGM. (see also amendment 4)
2. Subscriptions - As a consequence of the above amendment this section is no longer required.
3. Management - an amendment was passed unanimously at the AGM on 4th February 2010 to remove "No more than one member of a given family may be elected". That this amendment shall be in force for the period that John Brant (treasurer) and Graham Brant (engagement secretary) serve on the committee.
4. Raffle - with reference to amendment 1 above at the AGM on 6th February 2014 there was unanimous agreement to abolish the requirement to automatically review the weekly raffle at each year's AGM. A member can, at any future AGM, put forward a motion to reinstate subscriptions which would then be voted upon.
5. Membership and subscriptions – It was agreed at an EGM on 30 September 2021 **to supersede amendments 1, 2 and 4** and to reintroduce membership subscriptions at a rate of £35 per adult member for the period from June 2021 to 31 March 2022, and to £45 per adult member for the period 1 April to 31 March annually thereafter (members under 18 to pay £20 per annum), subject to review and confirmation by members at the AGM. New members subscriptions to be made on a pro-rate basis, once permanent membership is confirmed. Any members in financial hardship would be considered by the committee for an exemption on a case-by-case basis.
6. Membership and subscriptions – It was agreed at an AGM on 25 May 2023 **to supersede amendment 5** to amend the period for which subscriptions are due to 1 January to 31 December. For the period 1 April 2023 to 31 December 2023, it was agreed that the subscription payable would be £35 and for subsequent years, subject to confirmation or amendment at each AGM to be £45 per annum (members under 18 or in full-time education to be exempt).