

CANAL & RIVER TRUST COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2019/20 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: THE ROLE AND REMIT OF A COUNCIL MEMBER

HOW OFTEN DOES COUNCIL MEET?

Two times a year but there may be the opportunity to undertake other Council-related work. Meetings will be located at major centres for ease of rail travel. The Council has met over the last four years in Liverpool, Birmingham, Bath, York, and Manchester. The next meetings will be held on 26 March 2020 and 23 September 2020.

WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF A COUNCIL MEMBER? HOW MUCH WORK WILL IT INVOLVE?

The Council is responsible for appointing Trustees and has the power to dismiss Trustees. While Trustees are responsible for determining policy and strategy, Council has an important role in helping to shape policy, raising and debating issues, providing guidance and perspective and acting as a sounding board for Trustees.

Council members must be prepared to read papers in advance of meetings, to think about their content, as well as keep in touch generally with developments and issues arising within the world of waterways. Council members may wish to spend some time between meetings gathering the views of people within their constituency to form a representative view and raise any questions. The most effective Council members will therefore be well-networked as well as able and willing to devote time and effort to become well-informed and be ready to contribute to Council meetings. As an indicative guide, Council members should expect two days of meetings plus additional time to read the paperwork. It is estimated a minimum commitment of 20 hours a year should be reasonably expected by Council members.

WHAT TOPICS HAS THE COUNCIL CONSIDERED IN PREVIOUS MEETINGS?

Minutes of all Council meetings are freely available on the Trust website and can be found [here](#).

WHO ELSE IS A MEMBER OF COUNCIL?

Council membership consists of representatives from a broad spectrum of interests, reflecting the breadth of individuals and organisations involved with our waterways. In addition to elected posts, areas of interest represented on Council include walking, cycling, historic environment, natural environment and local government. The Chairs of the six Regional Advisory Boards are also members. The current Council membership can be found [here](#).

WHAT IS THE TERM OF APPOINTMENT?

Council members are elected for a term of 4 years.

IS THERE ANY PERSONAL LIABILITY ASSOCIATED WITH COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP?

As the Canal & River Trust is a 'company limited by guarantee' it does not have shareholders or any share capital. Instead, the Council members are 'members' of the Trust for the

purposes of company law and their liability is limited to paying a contribution not exceeding £10 towards the debts and liabilities of the Canal & River Trust in the unlikely event of the Canal & River Trust being wound-up. There is no other liability attached to the role of Council member as they are not in positions of executive authority and they do not have direct responsibility for the actions of the Trust.

ARE EXPENSES PAYABLE?

Yes. Reasonable and agreed expenses for attendance at Council meetings and meetings of official Council committees will be reimbursed. Council members are asked to minimise their expenditure, taking advantage of discounted rail travel wherever possible. Hotels and overnight accommodation will require approval prior to booking.

The appointment is however, not remunerated.