

# GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH

## LOCAL RULES

Version History			
Date	Version	Status	Comments
9 October 2008	1.0	Approved	Approved by Special Church Members' Meeting
30 January 2014	1.1	Approved	Approved by Church Members' Meeting 30/01/14
23 March 2023	1.2	Approved	Approved at AGM 23/03/23

## **LOCAL RULES GORSE HILL BAPTIST CHURCH, SWINDON, WILTSHIRE**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

These local rules amplify the Constitution. Should there be any conflict between these Local Rules and the Constitution, then the Constitution takes precedence.

### **2 CLAUSES 6.2 BELONGING TO THE CHURCH & 8.4 THE MEMBERSHIP LIST**

The Biblical principles given in Matthew 18: 15 – 17 shall be followed especially in cases where member's conduct is in question.

### **3 CLAUSE 7.4 JOINING AND BECOMING A CHURCH MEMBER**

The process by which a person applies for membership is as follows:

- Applications will be made to the Church Secretary.
- Two members of the church will be appointed by the Church Secretary to meet each applicant.
- Copies of the Constitution and Local Rules will be given to each applicant.
- The privileges, responsibilities and basis of membership, together with the applicant's Christian faith will be discussed.
- The visitors will report back to a Church Members' Meeting and following their report a vote will be taken by simple majority.
- If agreed, membership will be immediate and be recognised at the earliest convenient communion service.
- The decision will be given to the applicant by the Secretary.

### **4 CHILD PROTECTION POLICY**

The Church will follow the guidance given by the Baptist Union which will be explained and endorsed each year by an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting.

### **5 EXPENDITURE LIMITS AND BUDGETS**

**5.1** The financial expenditure limits for any payments by the treasurer alone and by the deacons alone, before prior approval has to be obtained by an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting, will be agreed at each Annual General Meeting. This excludes routine running expenses or expenditure in an emergency situation when retrospective approval is required.

**5.2** Trustees will be responsible for budgets which may be delegated as appropriate.

### **6 CHANGES TO THESE LOCAL RULES**

Changes may be made to these Local Rules by a vote at an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting.

### **7 MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DEACONS**

Clause 15.4 In addition to Minister(s) Secretary and Treasurer, the maximum number of Deacons serving as Charity Trustees shall be nine or number agreed at the Members' meeting.

## **8**

### **ABSTENTIONS**

8.1 An Abstention at either an Ordinary Church Members' Meeting (Church Constitution Clause 13.7) or at a Special Church Members' Meeting (Church Constitution Clause 13.9) is a decision not to vote.

8.2 The quorum for a meeting is determined by the number of members present at the time a vote is taken and is not affected by abstentions.

8.3 Abstentions will be excluded from any voting calculations where a proposal is required to obtain a specific percentage of votes to be approved. The percentage is calculated by the number of votes For (Yes votes), as a percentage of the Number of Yes votes plus the Number of No votes.

8.4 For record and future reference purposes, i.e., for confirming the meeting was quorate, the minutes of the meeting will record:

8.4.1. the number of Abstentions,

8.4.2 the number of votes For the proposal,

8.4.3 the number of votes Against the proposal.