

Constitution of the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association

1. The name of the association shall be the “Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association”.
2. The aims of the association are the improvement of public transport within Cheshire Greater Manchester and Merseyside and (without prejudice to the generality of this) to:
 - (i) Improve rail services and stations on the Mid-Cheshire Line between Manchester and Chester via Altrincham, Knutsford and Northwich;
 - (ii) Improve rail services and stations on the line between Crewe and Liverpool and promote other potential services on the West Coast Main Line serving Cheshire stations;
 - (iii) Support the re-opening of the line between Northwich and Sandbach to passenger traffic.
3. Membership shall be open to all persons and bodies in agreement with the aims of the association. Classes of membership shall be as follows:
 - (i) Individuals under 21 years;
 - (ii) Individuals 21 years and over;
 - (iii) Families;
 - (iv) Voluntary bodies;
 - (v) Corporations

Changes to the classes of membership may only be effected at an Annual General Meeting.

The rates of subscription for each class of membership at any particular time shall be decided by an Annual General Meeting.

4. The Association shall hold its Annual General Meeting between 1st May and 31st July every year. Independently examined accounts shall be presented for approval at each Annual General Meeting.

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be convened either by a decision of the Committee of the Association or by a notice signed by 30 members and delivered to the Secretary of the Association. The Extraordinary General Meeting shall be held within two months of the receipt of such notice.

One month's notice shall be given of the convening of all General Meetings of the Association.

5. Votes at General Meetings of the Association shall be granted to those members who have paid a current subscription at least one week prior to the meeting and are present as follows:

Individuals – one vote

Families – one vote for each family member present, with a maximum of two.

Voluntary Bodies and Corporate Bodies – one vote for each member present from the controlling committee or executive, with a maximum of two votes for each body.

6. The Association shall be governed by a Committee. The Committee shall consist of between six and twenty members, elected at the Annual General Meeting. At the meeting of the Committee following the Annual General Meeting, the Committee shall appoint (by ballot if necessary) a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary and a Treasurer from amongst its number. These shall be the Officers of the Association. No person may hold more than one such position. Such persons shall hold office for one year, but may be re-elected.

A person may resign membership of the Committee or the holding of a position with one month's notice in writing to the Secretary. A motion to remove a person from office may be made (and must be seconded) at any meeting or in writing by a minimum of two Committee members to the Secretary. In such case the Committee shall hold a special committee meeting within one month with only this item on the agenda and shall make a decision by a majority vote. If a person resigns or is removed, Committee must appoint a replacement Officer at its next meeting.

7. The Committee may co-opt members between General Meetings, provided that the total of twenty is not exceeded. Co-opted members may serve only until the next General Meeting, but may then stand for election. The Committee may, in its discretion, permit persons who are not elected or co-opted members to attend and speak at its meetings, but such persons shall not be entitled to vote on any matter.
8. Current members of the Committee may stand for re-election, without need for nomination. A proposal for re-election en-masse may be accepted, if that is the wish of the meeting. Nominations for new members of the Committee shall be made in writing to the Secretary (with a proposer and seconder and the signed consent of the proposed candidate) and received by him not less than one week before the Annual General Meeting. A nominee may be elected by a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote unless a nomination would mean exceeding twenty members, when a secret ballot of all members shall be held for all positions on the Committee.
9. If the positions of Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer remain unfilled, or the membership of the Committee falls below six, for a continuous period of six calendar months, a general meeting must be called with the purpose of either filling those positions or suspending or disbanding the Association.
10. Any amendments to this Constitution may only be made at a General Meeting of the Association by a simple majority vote. One month's notice of any proposed amendments shall be given.
11. If any proposal is made to suspend or disband the Association or to dispose of any funds in consequence, such matter may only be considered at a General Meeting. One month's notice of such meeting shall be given which shall include reasons for such suspension, disbandment or disposal.

As adopted at the MCRUA AGM 13 June 2022. Revision to minimum size of committee in clauses 6 and 9, and from previous version adopted on 27 June 2016.