

Proposed BSV Constitution Changes 2026

Constitutional Requirements

- The constitution requires that any changes must be provided to the membership a minimum of 21 days before the AGM (or Special General Meeting). [Section 22 of Constitution.]
- Changes to the membership fees {Annual Subscription) must be determined by the Committee no later than October of the year preceding the AGM [Constitution s.9(i)].
- The Annual general meeting of the Society shall be held each year not later than the month of April. [Constitution 18 (i)].
- The proposed changes were approved by the committee at the committee meeting of 15 October 2025.
- The constitution requires that changes to the Annual Subscription rate must be determined by the committee no later than October of the year preceding the AGM. Thus, it is now only possible for the proposed changes to be accepted or rejected at the AGM (they cannot be amended).

Proposed Changes

There are four proposed changes of which only one involves changes to the Annual Subscription rate (membership fee).

- Changing the Annual Subscription rates.
- Changing the membership type from “Ordinary” to “Full” (word change only).
- Changing the membership lapsed period rule from 2 years to 1 year.
- Changing the wording for concessional membership from “students, unemployed and retired persons” to “students, unemployed and concessional card holders”.

Why are Annual Subscription rates changing?

In considering the changes to the Annual Subscription the committee considered the following -

- Any jump in fees should not deter people from renewing or joining.
- It has been at least 10 years since subscription rate were changed. Costs have generally risen during this time but in the current economic circumstances the committee determined not to raise the rate of the annual subscription.
- Membership should remain accessible to those with limited finances but the committee considered whether the current rate is appropriate when considered against that for full membership. The committee considered the concessional rate should rise slightly.
- While acknowledging that life membership is a significant financial commitment for those taking up this option, the committee concluded that raising the cost of life membership more accurately reflects the value of this membership type.

The proposed fee structure is shown below. At the AGM each change will be put separately.

Membership Type	Current Rate	Recommended Proposed Rate
Concession	\$25	\$40
Ordinary (Full)	\$80	\$80
Life	\$800	\$1200

Proposed BSV Constitution Changes 2026

Note that the fee changes must be put to the AGM in a motion(s) for ratification. As the actual rate is not specified in the constitution - only the process for changing them - this is not considered a constitutional change.

1. Change how we refer to membership type

It is proposed that we rename membership type from Ordinary membership to Full membership. This is considered a simpler and clearer articulation of this membership category. This is a wording change only and does not otherwise affect membership.

There are 18 occurrences of “Ordinary” in the constitution.

Action: Replace the word “ordinary” with the word “full”.

Section	Number of occurrences
2	1
8 (i)	1
8 (ii)	4
8 (iii)	3
8 (iv)	1
9 (i)	1
9 (iii)	1
13 (v)	1
18 (iii)	2
18 (ix)	1
18 (xi)	1
18 (xvii)	1

2. Change the membership lapsed period rule from 2 years to 1 year.

This is a change under Section 9 (viii) and means that membership will lapse after one year if the membership is not renewed. After a lapse of more than 12 months a person will be required to rejoin as a new member. This change is driven by the requirements of the online membership platform. but has a secondary impact upon voting rights.

Action: Replace the words “two years” with the words “one year”.

Current Wording	Suggested Wording
In the event of non-payment of subscriptions due for two years or more, the membership shall not be renewable and the person will require to join as a new Member.	In the event of non-payment of subscriptions due for one year or more, the membership shall not be renewable and the person will require to join as a new Member.

3. Change the wording for concessional membership

This is a change under s.9(i) of the constitution and broadens the category of concession holders as well as bringing it more into line with the standard wording for concessional memberships.

Proposed BSV Constitution Changes 2026

Action: Replace the words “(students, unemployed and retired persons shall be eligible for concessionary payments)” with “. Students, unemployed and concessional card holders shall be eligible for concessional payments”.

Current Wording	Suggested Wording
Applications for Ordinary or Associate Membership shall be on such forms as shall be prescribed by the Society from time to time and shall be accompanied by such payment as the Society directs (students, unemployed and retired persons shall be eligible for concessionary payments).	Applications for Ordinary or Associate Membership shall be on such forms as shall be prescribed by the Society from time to time and shall be accompanied by such payment as the Society directs. Students, unemployed and concessional card holders shall be eligible for concessional payments.