

Tally Sticks UK: A Proposal for a Custodial Council

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Executive Summary

To ensure the long-term integrity, decentralization, and public accountability of the Tally Sticks UK initiative, this document proposes a formal governance structure transition. The project's oversight will be vested in a **Custodial Council** composed of 12 members selected from both domain experts and the public community. This structure removes any single point of control, embeds democratic principles into the project's core, and allows the founding caretaker to transition to a strategic role focused on the global development of the underlying EAVEcore platform technology. The council's legitimacy will be further anchored by the "Custodian's Pledge," a novel on-chain mechanism for recording each member's commitment to the Tally Sticks Constitution.

1. Rationale & Constitutional Alignment

The transition from a single director to a distributed council is the ultimate fulfillment of the Tally Sticks Constitution:

- **Service Over Power (#13):** It decentralizes authority, ensuring no single individual holds ultimate power. The founder's willingness to transfer stewardship is the most powerful demonstration of this principle.
- **Accountability (#4):** A council of 12 provides a far more robust mechanism for internal and public accountability than a single director.
- **Empowerment (#7):** It formally empowers members of the community and relevant experts to take an active role in the governance of a system designed for their benefit.
- **Equity (#5):** A diverse council ensures that multiple perspectives are brought to bear on the project's direction, promoting fairness and preventing groupthink.
- **Constitutional Sovereignty (#14):** The primary duty of the council will be to act as the ultimate guardian of the Tally Sticks Constitution, ensuring it remains the supreme governing authority of the system.

2. The Custodial Council Framework

A. Composition

The council shall consist of **12 members**, ensuring a balance of expertise and public representation:

- **4 Appointed Expert Seats:** For individuals with proven expertise in key fields (e.g., a barrister specializing in public law, a cybersecurity expert, a chartered accountant, and an expert in digital ethics).
- **8 Community Representative Seats:** For members of the public selected through a fair and open nomination and community voting process.

B. Responsibilities

The Custodial Council's primary duties include:

1. **Upholding the Constitution:** Acting as the final arbiter on the interpretation and application of the 17 principles.
2. **Strategic Oversight:** Guiding the long-term strategy of Tally Sticks UK to ensure it continues to serve its community interest mission.
3. **Appointing Leadership:** Appointing and overseeing key operational roles for the day-to-day running of the CIC.
4. **Approving Major Changes:** Ratifying any proposed amendments to the Constitution or major strategic partnerships.
5. **Public Ambassadorship:** Acting as trusted representatives of the project to the public and to government bodies.
6. **Annual Reporting:** Producing a transparent annual report on the performance and constitutional compliance of Tally Sticks UK.

3. The Custodian's Pledge: A Verifiable Chain of Guardianship

To ensure a formal, public, and lasting record of commitment, the transfer of stewardship will be immortalized on the public ledger.

- **The Founding Act:** The process begins with the original Caretaker (Ken) making the first symbolic "Stake Claim" donation to the Tally Sticks UK CIC public treasury. This transaction includes a formal declaration, establishing the Genesis Block of guardianship.
- **The Custodian's Pledge:** Subsequently, each of the 12 selected custodians, upon formally accepting their role, will make their own **small, symbolic donation** to the CIC's treasury.
- **The On-Chain Declaration:** This donation transaction is not anonymous. It includes a message in its OP_RETURN data field, creating a permanent public record of their pledge. The message will state: "I, [Custodian's Public Identifier],

do solemnly pledge to uphold the 17 principles of the Tally Sticks Constitution and to act as a faithful guardian of its mission to serve the people of the United Kingdom. This transaction marks my official commencement as a Custodian. Date: [Date]"

This creates an **unbroken, verifiable "Chain of Guardianship"** on the blockchain, providing an unparalleled level of transparency and historical accountability.

4. Selection, Term Limits, and Governance

- **Selection:** The inaugural council will be formed via a transparent public application and nomination process, validated by the EAVE.
- **Term Limits:** Custodians will serve a term of **three years**. They may be re-elected for one additional consecutive term. After serving two consecutive terms, they must step down for at least one year before being eligible for re-nomination.
- **Voting:** Each custodian holds one vote. A quorum of two-thirds (8 members) is required. Decisions are made by a simple majority, with the chair holding a casting vote in the event of a tie.
- **Amendments:** Changes to this charter require a two-thirds majority vote of the full council and will be recorded on the public ledger.

This governance model ensures that Tally Sticks UK remains a resilient, decentralized, and publicly accountable organization for generations to come.