

Summary of Constitutional Change proposals

Proposal 1: In paragraph 3.4 it is proposed to delete the word: 'ecological'.

Current:

3.4 Support the development of ecological policies and programs which improve conditions for bees and honey production.

Proposed:

3.4 Support the development of policies and programs which improve conditions for bees and honey production.

Rationale: This better reflects our current practice and direction, and we probably lack the ecological expertise.

Proposal 2: In paragraph 5.1 it is proposed to delete the words: 'due to the Society. Members shall pay an', and change 'on the form' to 'in the form'.

Current:

5.1 Application for membership shall be on the form prescribed from time to time by the Management Committee. Membership shall be deemed conferred on payment of the prescribed due to the Society. Members shall pay an annual subscription fee. Membership shall be open to persons in the following categories:

Proposed:

5.1 Application for membership shall be in the form prescribed from time to time by the Management Committee. Membership shall be deemed conferred on payment of the prescribed annual subscription fee. Membership shall be open to persons in the following categories:

Rationale: This better reflects our current practice.

Proposal 3: In paragraph 5.5 it is proposed to add the words: 'Up to two adult Family Members may have voting rights.'

Current:

5.5 Family Membership – Any family of up to two adults and two children or one adult and three children who qualify for membership or junior membership. Any current Family membership must comply with Clause 6.2

Proposed:

5.5 Family Membership – Any family of up to two adults and two children or one adult and three children who qualify for membership or junior membership. Up to two adult Family Members may have voting rights. Any current Family membership must comply with Clause 6.2

Rationale: This better reflects our current practice, and clarifies the number of effective votes.

Proposal 4: In paragraph 7.4 it is proposed to add: 'by email'.

Current:

7.4 The Management Committee may convene a Special General Meeting upon receiving a written request to do so by at least ten Members. The request shall state the purpose of such meeting and the meeting shall be held within 28 days of delivery of the request to the Secretary. At least ten days' notice of a Special General Meeting shall be given to each member by pre-paid letter posted to his/her last known address, but accidental omission to give notice to any Member shall not invalidate the meeting.

Proposed:

7.4 The Management Committee may convene a Special General Meeting upon receiving a written request to do so by at least ten Members. The request shall state the purpose of such meeting and the meeting shall be held within 28 days of delivery of the request to the Secretary. At least ten days' notice of a Special General Meeting shall be given to each member by email or pre-paid letter posted to his/her last known address, but accidental omission to give notice to any Member shall not invalidate the meeting.

Rationale: This better reflects our current practice, as most correspondence these days are electronic.

Proposal 5: It is proposed that there be created a new category of Corporate Membership.

This to be inserted into the constitution as the paragraph:

5.7 Corporate Membership – This to consist of the employer, and nominated employees up to five persons in total. This can include family members if they are considered employees. Voting is restricted to adult members up to the limit of five votes.

Rationale:

This will make provision for members who run a business with employees and family members to also be included in a category that is similar in concept to Family Membership. It would provide a mechanism for the Society to charge for this category type that doesn't exist at present, and allow the means by which a small business could claim a legitimate tax deduction. Subscriptions of the order \$240-300 are envisaged. Limits to numbers in the category will limit any undue influence. There may need to be a transition of some members to this new category.

Note that the adoption of this proposal will require the renumbering of the existing paragraphs 5.7 and 5.8 to 5.8 and 5.9 respectively.

Proposal 6: In paragraph 10.1 it is proposed to delete 'Elections shall be by secret ballot.'

Current:

10.1 All offices shall be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. Elections shall be by secret ballot. A simple majority voting system shall be used. Any equality in voting shall be resolved in favour of the retiring candidate (if any) or otherwise by lot. Nominations for all positions may be made either orally or in writing at the Annual General Meeting.

Proposed:

10.1 All offices shall be declared vacant at the Annual General Meeting. A simple majority voting system shall be used. Any equality in voting shall be resolved in favour of the retiring candidate (if any) or otherwise by lot. Nominations for all positions may be made either orally or in writing at the Annual General Meeting.

Rationale: This reflects our current practice.

Proposal 7: It is proposed to reword paragraph 12.5 in order to simplify the appointment of sub-committees.

Current:

12.5 The Society or the Management Committee may appoint sub-committees at a General, Special General or Annual General Meeting. The President shall ex-officio be a Member of all such sub-committees. Membership of sub-committees need not be confined to Members of the Society.

Proposed:

12.5 The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees. The President shall ex-officio be a Member of all such sub-committees. A sub-committee must include at least one member of the Management Committee other than

the President. The sub-committee may appoint or co-opt people as required subject to ratification by the Management Committee. Membership of sub-committees need not be confined to Members of the Society.

Rationale: This better reflects our current situation. The members already elect the Management Committee to represent them. This allows the Committee to respond to changing needs without unnecessarily referring management back to members.

Proposal 8: In paragraph 13.5 it is proposed to re-word the paragraph to place any monthly expenditures within context of a budget approved by members.

Current:

13.5 No expenditure greater than \$400.00 in any one month shall be incurred without the prior approval of members at a General Meeting.

Proposed:

13.5 That outside of the budget approved by the members, no expenditure greater than \$1000.00 in any one month shall be incurred without the prior approval of members at a General Meeting.

Note: The value of this expenditure was raised from the floor at the November 2020 Annual General Meeting, and was considered an appropriate amount, but there wasn't the necessary 21 days prior notice as required. The value is included here in context of the re-worded paragraph.

Rationale: With more members, some costs are reflective of the increased numbers. Without this increase, it will be possible that some invoices would remain unpaid until member ratification of payment of the invoice were made in the next available meeting. This would reflect poorly on the Society.

Proposal 9: See Special Meeting Agenda.