

Introduction

The current constitution dates from 2015 and has not been reviewed subsequently. Various factors have come into play since then:

- In line with most other membership organisations our membership has fallen
- Since the pandemic the use of remote or hybrid meetings has grown exponentially
- The Charity Act 2020 is now fully in force
- A major re-organisation of local government is proposed that will impact on how planning is carried out in the county

As a consequence, the Board of Trustees set up a Task and Finish Group to review the constitution and recommend any necessary changes. The Group reviewed the constitution in its entirety, not just those clauses impacted by the above. In line with national policy, National Office were consulted on draft changes, and the proposed redrafted constitution was approved by the national trustees at their meeting on 18 March 2026.

The proposed changes are set out below. At the time of the review no decision had been announced about the new structure of local government in Hampshire below the strategic authority level. The provisions of the constitution were reviewed to ensure they were flexible enough to cope with whatever structure emerges. The BoT intends to consider the CPRE Branch structure when this information becomes available and is committed to doing so in consultation with the membership.

Proposed Changes

Clause 9 (C)

The change removes a clause which allows District Groups to nominate one of its members to stand for election to the Board of Trustees (BoT). Since trustee vacancies are advertised generally this provision is no longer needed.

Clause 11 (5) (B)

The change reduces the quorum for the AGM from 25 to 21. Despite our falling membership we have always achieved 25 members at the AGM in person, but it has been tight. Many CPRE branches have reduced their quorum to 15. The BoT believe it is important that the quorum should exceed double the number of trustees so that ordinary members cannot be outvoted by the BoT. As the maximum number of trustees is now stated as 10, see clause 12 (3) below, 21 achieves this aim.

Clause 11 (9)

This revision allows for remote attendance at AGMs. The provision mirrors that adopted for CPRE National AGMs.

Clause 12 (3)

This clause sets a maximum number for the BoT of 10.

Clause 12 (4)

This change removes historical information.

Clause 13 (1)

This change removes the provision that should a trustee be appointed to the BoT between AGMs the partial period served before the AGM counts as a full year in determining the trustee's length of service. In practice this has meant that the BoT has either deferred appointment of a candidate until the next AGM, even though the person concerned is willing and able to join earlier or, has lost a very able trustee before they have served out a full term.

Clause 13 (2)

This removes an anomaly in the wording and brings the provision into line with the constitution of other branches.

Clause 13 (5)

The provision in this clause duplicates that in Clause 9 (C) which it is proposed should be removed.

Clause 16 (1)

This clarifies the length of service of the President and the Vice Presidents. The flexibility on the length of service of the Vice Presidents is to ensure continuity should that be necessary.

General

A number of changes have been made to gender neutralise the provisions of the constitution and to standardise such references, also to standardise the clause numbering/lettering.