

OSME AGM 18th November 2023 10.00 GMT

Agenda Item 6 Constitution Changes

Please refer to our Constitution Document

OSME Council is recommending some minor constitutional changes to modernise our constitution and bring us in line with current practice.

Although adopted in just 2010 things move quickly particularly in the new digital world necessitating some of these changes. No recommended change needs UK Charity Commission approval as the fundamentals remain exactly the same.

Changes recommended for approval:

Section 7 Membership

Delete section on life membership which is now no longer appropriate. Replace with:

Life membership is no longer an option from November 18th 2023, existing life memberships will though of course be honoured.

Section 8 Termination of membership

8.3 change nine months to four

Section Nine Presidents and Vice Presidents

This was fully discussed at several council meetings and it was agreed that Presidents and Vice Presidents are no longer practical or needed and have never worked affectively for the Society. We therefore recommend deletion.

We will endeavour to build on country representatives as an alternative now that digital technology such as Zoom makes contact and participation much easier.

Section 18 Appointment of Trustees

Along with all the Bird Societies and Charities in general the appointment of Trustees is becoming more and more difficult. We wish therefore to remove barriers and ensure that good Trustees can serve for as long as they or the Society wishes.

Delete. 18.3, 18.6(a) & 18.6(b0

Replace 18.4. with :Trustees are elected to serve a minimum of five years after which they must be re-elected by the membership at an AGM. There is no upper limit on how long a Trustee can serve.

Section 19 Powers of Trustees

Replace 19 c To establish and maintain Grants Programmes

19(l) Cheque signatories. Practically 100% of all our business is now done digitally via banks and credit card systems. We haven't written a cheque for well over two years. We therefore would recommend deleting the sentence.. Cheques for small amounts....

Members assurance on proper process is backed by our double treasurer system, the accounts going to the Chair weekly and our audit by qualified accountant and member Mike Jennings. In addition, our accounts are in the public domain via the UK Charity Commission website.

Section 31 Rules

31c. Wholly irrelevant and therefore we recommend deletion. We have no premises