

Proposed amendments to the Friends' Constitution

The Committee wishes the AGM on Saturday September 30 to consider two amendments to the Constitution which was established at the inaugural General Meeting on Saturday September 3 2016.

Our application for a grant was delayed because the grant body required signed Committee minutes accepting a resignation. Although a repeat situation is unlikely, it should be avoided by defining how a Committee member gives notice and how/when that notice takes effect.

Proposal 1 – amend the Constitution of the Friends of Cobbett Road Library, clause 27 Termination of office

1a) Insert “with immediate effect” in the main text of clause 27 so that it reads:

A member of the MC shall automatically vacate office with immediate effect if:-

1b) Insert the words “as defined in clause 11 above” in sub-clause 27 c) so that it reads:

he/she resigns office by notice to the association as defined in clause 11 above or

In establishing a Constitution the intention was to retain, as far as possible, the Friends' long-standing practice of flexibility and things being done by those best-suited and available. Formality should be kept to an absolute minimum. Although the Constitution's formalities and requirements are not onerous, there could be objections that our ways of working might not be fully compliant, so it is desirable to make formal provision for flexibility.

Proposal 2 – amend the Constitution of the Friends of Cobbett Road Library, clause 29 Officebearers

2) Add a new sentence at the end of clause 29 “At its absolute discretion, the MC may allocate the duties and responsibilities of one or more offices amongst two or more MC members, providing always that all such duties and responsibilities are covered.” The clause will then read:

The MC members shall appoint from among themselves a chair, a treasurer and a secretary, and such other office bearers (if any) as they consider appropriate. In so doing, they are required to take into account any views expressed about this matter at the AGM when these members were elected. The MC, at its absolute discretion, may vote to change these appointments at any time. At its absolute discretion, the MC may allocate the duties and responsibilities of one or more offices amongst two or more MC members, providing always that all such duties and responsibilities are covered.