



Proposed amendment to CCT's constitution to permit AGMs or general meetings of the charity to be held electronically.

Section 19 subsection 4 of CCT's constitution (Meetings and proceedings of charity trustees - participation in meetings by electronic means) allows for meetings of trustees to be held by agreed suitable electronic means and CCT trustees had started to use video conferencing periodically well before the lockdown as a means of saving time and money and allowing more distant trustees to participate without difficulty. Since the lockdown have exclusively used such means to meet and maintain CCT's operations.

However, no similar provision exists in CCT's constitution for the holding of the AGM or other general meetings by electronic means, which meant that when the face-to-face AGM that had been planned for last spring had to be cancelled because of the lockdown, trustees were not clear what the best course of action was in order to hold the AGM.

Since it is now clear that the Covid-19 restrictions are likely to persist for some time, it has been decided by trustees to hold the AGM electronically and the Charity Commission's temporary Covid guidelines allow for this to happen, even though our own constitution does not.

In the light of the experience of the last few months, trustees wish to propose an amendment to our constitution to ensure that in future CCT's constitution includes an option which allows AGMs and general meetings to be held electronically.

The advantages of such meetings are that they permit a meeting to take place when face-to-face meetings are impossible and that it allows for members living outside London to participate without having to face cost or time constraints of travelling to London (or wherever else the physical meeting might take place).

Trustees acknowledge that face-to-face meetings also bring benefits, not least the opportunity to bond and interact. It is therefore not anticipated that electronic means would entirely replace face-to-face meetings, but only that the option exists and that both options have different advantages.

To give flexibility and to recognise new ways of working, the trustees of CCT propose an amendment to CCT's constitution as follows:

To add to Section 11 (General meetings of members) sub-section (1) (Types of general meeting) a new third paragraph as follows:



“Any AGM or general meeting called under this section may be held as either a physical meeting, or a meeting by video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation, as may be decided by the charity trustees.”

If this were accepted by the AGM, the new Section 11 (1) would read:

1. Types of general meetings

There must be an annual general meeting (AGM) of the members of the CIO, The first AGM must be held within 18 months of the registration of the CIO, and subsequent AGMs must be held at intervals of not more than 15 months. The AGM must receive the annual statement of accounts (duly audited or examined where applicable) and the trustees’ annual report, and must elect trustees as required under clause 13.

Other general meetings of the members of the CIO may be held at any time.

Any AGM or general meeting called under this section may be held as either a physical meeting, or a meeting by video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation, as may be decided by the charity trustees.

All general meetings must be held in accordance with the following provisions.