

# Cambourne & District U3A

## Proposed amendment to the constitution

### Purpose

To allow the U3A to operate in exceptional circumstances, and to enable us provide a better service to members of the U3A who may have difficulty in attending a general meeting, it is proposed that the constitution adopted by the U3A at the AGM on 19 July 2019 be altered to make it explicit that we allow general meetings and meetings of the executive committee to be held online-only or in a hybrid manner, as well as the traditional, in-person attendance.

### Proposal

To this end, we propose the following clauses, mostly adapted from the U3A Model Constitution dated February 2021, be added to section 16 (“NOTICES, COMMUNICATIONS AND PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS”) of the constitution of Cambourne & District U3A:

- 16.viii. A general meeting may be held in person, by suitable electronic means agreed by the members of the executive committee in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants, or in a hybrid of these two approaches. Where the committee determines that a general meeting is to be held wholly or partly by electronic means pursuant to this clause, such determination shall be set out in the notice of general meeting sent to members, together with details of how a member may participate in such meeting, including the procedures for voting. Members present by electronic means will be considered present in person and will count towards the quorum for the relevant meeting.
- 16.ix. Where the committee determines that a general meeting is to be held by electronic means only, the notice of general meeting sent to members shall include an explanation of the exceptional circumstances which require the general meeting to be held by electronic means only. For this clause, “exceptional circumstances” means circumstances which in the reasonable opinion of the committee render it impossible to hold an effective general meeting in person or by a combination of meeting in person and through electronic means.
- 16.x. If the meeting is to be held solely by electronic means and the U3A has not yet been registered with Charity Commission, the place of the meeting shall be deemed to be The Hub, Cambourne; once registered, the registered address shall be used.
- 16.xi. Proceedings at a general meeting held wholly or partly by electronic means pursuant to clause 16.viii will not be invalidated due to technical issues which prohibit members from joining such meeting electronically, so long as a sufficient number of members to form a quorum under clause 16.iv is able to join the meeting successfully, whether by electronic means or in person.

In addition the following clause, adapted from paragraph 20(2) the U3A Model Constitution dated February 2021, is to be added to section 10 (“MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE”) of the constitution of Cambourne & District U3A:

- 10.x Meetings of the executive committee and its subcommittees may be held in person or by suitable electronic means agreed by the executive committee or the members of the subcommittee (as the case may be) in which each participant may communicate with all the other participants.

### Note

A copy of the current constitution is available on our website, and will be available for inspection at the AGM on October 15 2021, at which time the above proposal will be discussed and put to a vote of the members.