

Summary of Key Changes to Romsey and District u3a's Constitution Clauses

Topic	Existing Constitution	New Constitution
1. Object Clause	Clause 3.1 The charitable purposes of the U3A are: (i) The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.	Clause 3. Object. The charity's objective ('the Object') is the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning, and personal development in Romsey and the surrounding areas.
2. Trustee benefit clause	We don't have a specific clause in the current constitution	Clause 5. is lengthy and best looked at in the full constitution. It makes clear that trustees' expenses can be paid but no financial benefit received.
3 Dissolution clause	Clause 11. The U3A may be dissolved at any time by a resolution passed by three-quarters majority of those present and voting at any meeting of the said U3A of which at least twenty-one clear days' notice stating the intention to put forward such a resolution shall have been sent to all members of the U3A. If any assets remain after the satisfaction of all debts and other liabilities, such assets held by or in the name of the U3A shall be transferred to the Third Age Trust, Registered Charity No. 288077.	Clause 6. is lengthy and best looked at in the full constitution. Much of it is the same as currently but importantly it now specifies that the trustees must remain in office to oversee the winding up.

4. Quorum for general meeting decisions (i.e. decisions made by members not just the trustees	Two thirds of members	One third of members
5. Voting	Only provides for in person voting	Clause 15. Provides for in person voting, electronic voting and voting by proxy
6. Financial year	Clause 7.3 01.04 to 31.03	None specified to ensure flexibility.
7. Notification of AGM	Notice shall be given at least 21 days before date of AGM	14 days' notice, but 21 days if an item of business requires a 2/3rds favourable vote and 28 days if trustees are to be elected.
8. Deadline for trustee nominations	Clause 5.2.i At a date specified by the Committee.	Clause 11.1 28 days' notice of an election. Nominations received within 21 days thereof.
9. Trustee numbers	Clause 5.1.i Min 7, max 12, including officers, excluding co-opted of which maximum of 2.	Clause 16.5 Min 5 max 12, including officers, excluding co-opted of which maximum of 3.
10. Trustee term	Clause 5.2.iv Elected annually or Co-opted annually	Clause 16.5 Elected annually or Co-opted annually for max 2 yrs.
11. Maximum term as a trustee	Clause 5.2 None. A trustee's term is one year with re-election permitted with no limit.	Clause 16.7 3 yrs continuous then at least a year break. 9 years in total, whether continuous or not.
12. Break between trustee terms	None specified	Clause 16.5 One year
13. Officer term (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer)	Clause 5.2.iv Two years, perpetual re-election permitted except Chair and VC -maximum 4yrs and a one year break. But VC may after 4yrs in office, stand immediately as Chair.	3 yr continuous then at least a year break. 9 years in total, whether continuous or not.

Item 1 – 3 are the only changes that require Charity Commission approval. Approval for the Object clause was received on 16th February 2022. The other two were confirmed on 14th February.

These and all other changes have been approved by the Third Age Trust on 21st January 2022

The new constitution is based upon a model provided by the Third Age Trust. Our constitution working party, chaired by John Saunbury, has made many changes to this for the sake of clarity, including renumbering of paragraphs, and to reflect current terminology. All of the changes have been considered and accepted by the Third Age Trust.