

Background to Special General Meeting 4th April 2024

At its meeting on Tuesday 5 March, its Committee unanimously agreed that Witney u3a's constitution should be updated to conform to the Model Constitution provided by The Third Age Trust (the Trust).

As our national body, the Trust has invested considerable time and legal fees in arriving at an up-to-date constitution that they are confident meets the increasingly demanding requirements of the Charity Commission. As a registered charity whose membership is growing, we feel it is appropriate that we also do our best to meet those requirements by adopting the model constitution.

The new model constitution has the additional benefit to Witney u3a of reducing the number of members required for a quorum at a General Meeting from 20% to 10% and extending the maximum length of time that anyone can serve on the Committee from 6 years to 9 years (3 years in any one role). These changes will make it easier to meet quorum numbers and will ensure that the knowledge and experience of committee members is retained for longer.

In order for us to adopt this updated Constitution, it is necessary for us to hold a Special General Meeting at which two thirds of those present vote to support the change. Accordingly, it is planned to hold the Special General Meeting on Thursday 4 April at 1.45 in the Methodist Church, before the planned Speaker Meeting.

The Resolution put before the meeting will be:

'That Witney u3a agrees to adopt the model constitution

provided by the Third Age Trust (revised February 2021).'

To help you decide whether or not to vote in favour of the resolution, the proposed Constitution is attached. Also attached is Witney u3a's current Constitution so that you can compare the two documents. Witney u3a's current Constitution can also be found on our website.

We look forward to seeing you on 4 April, but in the meantime please don't hesitate to contact me via the Contacts page if you have any questions.

With all good wishes,

The Chair