



MOTIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE - REPORT

Introduction

The Motions Review Committee is made up of five members elected by General Council and two members of the board of trustees. Its role is to support meaningful debate at General Council meetings by trying to ensure that motions (and any amendments) are well drafted, so that their intention is clear. It is also responsible for the order of debate of motions and amendments, but not for other aspects of the timetable for the meeting.

During meetings of the committee we set aside personal opinions regarding any particular motion or amendment and seek to base our decisions on the intentions of the proposer and the best interests of General Council. However, if members of the committee speak during debate, we speak for ourselves (unless we have been asked to speak on behalf of the committee).

Members of the committee

The members of the committee are John Esslemont (chair), Sophie Clissold-Lesser (trustee), Gwyn Lewis, Holly Matthews, Richard May (trustee), Sylvia Popham and John Wainwright.

Meeting held on Monday 28 February 2022

The committee met by Zoom videoconference on 28 February to consider the 10 motions that had been received by the due date of 26 February. We also noted that no special (or ordinary) resolutions were submitted.

No motions were ruled out of order as having been debated in similar form at either of the two preceding Annual General Meetings of General Council.

Four similar motions were considered for redrafting as combined motions. The chair, having been responsible for drafting one of the motions, declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. As the outcomes requested by the motions differed, it was agreed to present two combined motions, each derived from two of the motions submitted.

Five of the remaining motions were subject to some, in most cases minor, redrafting in accordance with our analysis of the intentions of the proposer.

We agreed to table amendments to three motions, which will be subject to the same rules of debate as any other motions submitted.

We then decided the order in which the motions should be debated. Whilst all motions are deemed important, we try to give precedence to issues which we believe Council Members will consider most

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important in achieving our charitable objects, though this is necessarily somewhat subjective. We hope that, this year, there will be sufficient time for all motions to be fully debated.

Meeting held on Wednesday 6 April 2022

We met again by Zoom videoconference on 6 April to consider appeals, amendments, and motions submitted as matters of urgency.

No appeals had been submitted by the due date of 5 April against our decisions on motions.

No motions had been submitted by 5 April as matters of urgency.

Six amendments had been submitted by the due date of 5 April.

No amendments were ruled out of order on the grounds that, in our opinion, they would result in a material change to the nature of the motion.

No similar amendments were redrafted as combined amendments.

One amendment was redrafted in accordance with our analysis of the intentions of the proposer.

We then decided the order in which multiple amendments to two motions would be debated, giving consideration to any potential conflicts of wording.

In conclusion

At the time of writing, we were not aware of any appeals against our decisions on amendments.

Any unresolved appeals against our decisions will be considered by Council before the debate on motions, in accordance with Standing Order A25.

We should like to remind Council Members that, when voting, they should act in what they consider to be the best interests of Ramblers as a whole. In particular, they should allow their decisions to be influenced by what they have heard in debate and not just by any previous discussion at Area level.

We should like to pay tribute to the many years of service of the two most experienced members of the committee: Liz Lawie, who was not re-elected in 2021, and Sylvia Popham, who is not standing for re-election this year.

Finally, we hope that you will find this meeting of General Council a constructive and enjoyable experience. Over the last two years we have all had to get used to different ways of working. This year's meeting lacks the full opportunities for networking we generally enjoy, though it is good that we are again able to meet in person. Let us hope we can get back to something even nearer to normal in 2023.

John Esslemont
Chair, Motions Review Committee
6 April 2022