

## **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 Motions Review 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), Elizabeth Lawie, Gwyn Lewis, Richard May (trustee), Sylvia Popham and John Wainwright.

### **Meeting held on Monday 8 March 2021**

The committee met by Zoom videoconference on 8 March to consider the six motions that had been received by the due date of 6 March. We also noted that one Special Resolution, over which the committee has no powers, had been submitted by the Board of Trustees.

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. One motion is a revised version of a 2020 motion, but no motions were debated at the 2020 AGM (and the Board gave assurances that 2020 motions could be resubmitted if desired). No motions were redrafted as combined motions.

Five motions were subject to some very minor redrafting in accordance with our analysis of the intentions of the proposer.

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 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.

One amendment was submitted in the name of the Motions Review Committee.

### **Meeting held on Wednesday 14 April 2021**

We met again by Zoom videoconference on 14 April to consider appeals, amendments, and motions submitted as matters of urgency.

No appeals had been submitted by the due date of 13 April against our decisions on motions.

No motions had been submitted by 13 April as matters of urgency.

Five amendments had been submitted by the due date of 13 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.

Two amendments were 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.

Finally, we hope that you will find this meeting of General Council a constructive and enjoyable experience. Over the last year we have all had to get used to different ways of working. This year's meeting inevitably lacks the opportunities for networking we generally enjoy; let us hope we can get back to something nearer to normal in 2022.

**John Esslemont**  
**Chair, Motions Review Committee**  
**14 April 2021**