

Notes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 23rd February 2021 by Zoom

The quorum for the meeting requires 20 members. There were 43 members attending the meeting.

Apologies

Brian Shields, Robert Clarke, Alan Price, Tony Bostock and Chris Poupard

Notice of the meeting had been given and the papers relating to the content of the meeting had been sent by email and was available on the IFM website.

The EGM would consider four papers which had all been circulated in advance.

- The new constitution proposed for the Charity
- Amended Rules of IFM
- New Governance overview
- Changes to Membership categories

The Chairman introduced the meeting and pointed out that the voting would be indicative only as full on-line voting would follow the EGM.

A background was given over the route to Charitable status, going back to the 1990s. The decision taken by Council had been to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a newer and less complicated form of Charity, rather than becoming a Limited Company and Charity.

Constitution

The Constitution for the CIO follows a template issued by the Charity Commission.

Q. J.Colton – Are most Institutions a charity.

A Yes – all the main Institutes and Institutions are charites

Q G.Williams – will becoming a charity affect the partnership with FSBI

A No – FSBI are a charity also

Q Adrian Saunders– problem with political lobbying

A We do not do any party political lobbying and it will not affect our responses to proposed legislation or government issues

Governance

A very comprehensive paper had been prepared with the current and proposed Structures for governance of the IFM as a charity. This listed the Trustee structure the Executive Committee and an Advisory Council. This would be effective from 1st April.

Q R.Noble asked if the Rules could be expanded to give more clarity to the roles of the Vice Presidents.

A. To redefine the role of President and Vice Presidents and the route by which they gain this status.

Q G.Crawford – how will appointments be made.

A. Trustees are not paid and will be selected on skills. A business case will be made for any CEO role. Normally the Chairman would chair the Board of Trustees but this is for the Trustees to decide, any of which could be chair of meetings. All decisions will be driven by the 5 year strategy.

Membership

The paper highlighted the change in categories of membership from 7 categories to 4. It will ensure that anyone involved in fisheries management will be able to join IFM and gives a clear pathway to becoming a Full member.

Q P.Spillet asked for C.Poupard – what about Fellows – they are not listed in the categories.

A. Fellowship is an honorary award and can not be applied for

Q S. Axford – asked about voting rights relating to corporate and subscriber members

A Noted that all members had one vote under the constitution

Q J.Colton – where do commercial organisations fit in the categories

A. Subscriber members

Rules

A list of the main changes was included in the paper for this section on the Rules. The Objects are not quoted in the Rules as these are in the Constitution

Q R.Noble – noted change from Auditor to Independent Examiner

A. A formal audit will not be required as our turnover does not exceed £1m.

Q. P.Spillet – rolling subscriptions – how will member numbers be recorded

A. Will be the figure in June each year

Q. P.Spillet – branch rules and Friends of branch

A The branch rules are now consolidated within the main rules and Friends of branch are covered under Section 6 of the Constitution – re informal non-voting members.

Q M.Heylin – year end 31st Dec?

A. Always been end Dec in any year – allows for accounts to be completed by late Spring to go to the AGM in October.

Q. J.Cresswell?? – branch rules should be permissive not prohibitive.

General

Q A.McGurdy – will any changes affect those members not residing in the UK

A No – the charity will be registered in England but ok for all foreign members

Q. Brexit and Ireland Branch ?

A Do not think it will be an issue

Indicative Vote – 100% agreement

Next Steps

Voting mechanisms will be confirmed by 28th February 2021

Voting can take place on-line, by post or email between 1st – 14th March 2021

Analysis of the voting will be carried out before 22nd March 2021 and the results published by 29th March 2021. The changes will come into effect on 1st April 2021.

Following the consultation period voting was carried out by post, email and on-line and the results were as follows

Item	Votes for	Votes against	No votes	% in Favour
1. Constitution	141	1	X	99.3
2. Governance	141	1	X	99.3
3. Membership categories	142	0	X	100
4. Rules changes	142	0	X	100