

Notes on Proposed Change of Constitution and Rules

During the course of two meetings the sub-committee (Pamela Flanagan, Moira Usher, Jim Grant and myself) have considered the current rules and how we could update them for the Society in the 21st century.

The original rules were drafted many decades ago and have been incrementally ‘improved’ over the years. Because we don’t have a constitution as the Charity Commissioners would expect of newly registered charities, our rules have to be passed by them every time we wish to make a change.

Draft Constitution

We have been advised that it would be better to use the Charity Commission’s (CC) own standard constitution (modified as necessary to fit the SRP). This would be easily approved by the CC and they would *not* then need to approve our rules each time we need to make a change.

One of the attached files is the CC model constitution, with the necessary amendments made. Any changes we’ve made are noted in red, while areas we feel require legal advice are noted in purple. If the Committee are happy with our work so far, our plan is to seek legal advice on the constitution before submitting it to the CC.

Draft Rules

We have also made a start on revamping the SRP rules, removing items which would already be covered by the CC model constitution. This was done in our second meeting (one which Moira unfortunately missed through illness) and we only reached the end of rule 4. Our plan is to meet once more to finish this work and then seek legal advice on the completed draft rules. They could then be presented to the Committee at our meeting in February 2020.

Matters for discussion

At the October meeting we need to discuss the make up of the committee officers. Crucially, this is a matter of whether the Officers should simply be Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary (plus a number of normal SRP members to make up the rest of the committee) or whether they should also include Membership Secretary and perhaps COS/Central Membership Secretary. There was some discussion as to how COS/Central members are to be represented on the committee if the latter role was not an officer.

Helen Hooker

8 October 2019