

Proposed Amendments to the Wellington Mills Constitution

September 2024

The following are **new clauses** that the MC believe will improve the running of the MC and improve the accessibility of General Meetings

1. Add new clause 9.1.1. stating that:

“The role of Chairperson may be split between two members (who will be referred to as Co-Chairpersons).”

We have been operating with co-Chairs for the last year, but have been advised that, officially speaking, provision for Co-Chairs must be added to the Constitution.

2. Add new clause 8.10. stating that:

“A member who is unable to attend a meeting may request, in writing to the Secretary not less than 24 hours beforehand, to nominate another person as their proxy to vote on their behalf. This person need not be a member of the Co-Operative.”

and a new clause 8.10.1. stating that:

“No person may control more than one proxy vote.”

These clauses are being proposed to address the problems of (1) infirm or absent members who are unable to physically attend a general meeting but nevertheless wish to vote on a matter under discussion, and (2) absent leaseholders who are willing to give temporary voting right to sub-tenants. In the case of (1), proxy voters could include friends or relatives who are not resident on the Estate. We suggest limiting the number of proxy votes an individual can control to one to prevent vote harvesting or other abuse of the process. These new clauses override Clause 6.2.5 approved at the October 2022 General Meeting but not yet put into effect.

The following are **minor edits of clauses already approved by the GM**, on legal advice from Lambeth (the substantive meaning of each clause has not changed).

3. Update clause 8.2 (approved in April 2023) as:

“If no quorum is present within 15 minutes of the time appointed for the meeting, the meeting shall either stand adjourned and be reconvened at a time and place as shall be agreed at the meeting and notified to members or shall continue without any votes being taken.”

4. Update clause 8.8.1 (approved in April 2023) as:

“If agreed by the Chair and the Secretary of the Management Committee not less than two weeks before a General Meeting, a Resolution may instead be put to the vote by means of a postal ballot.”

5. Update clause 10.4 (historic) as:

“Retiring members of the Committee hold office until the new Committee is declared by the General Meeting”

6. Update clause 10.3 (approved in April 2023) as:

“New members of the Committee hold office immediately following the declaration of their election at a General Meeting but may meet beforehand to elect Officers and agree other necessary business”