

COULSDON WEST RA - STATEMENT OF FACTS REGARDING THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Committee is mindful of ill-informed and false speculation and claims made in public in recent weeks, so wish to put the record straight

The Committee notes that London elections due in May 2020 were put back for one year, and the elected terms extended by that period.

- 1 In March 2020, the Committee booked a venue for the 2020 AGM to be held in mid June.
- 2 This meeting had to be cancelled due to the Virus Restrictions
- 3 Members of the Committee urged for an AGM to be held in September, however the person then acting as Chairman blocked this.
- 4 New leadership took over in August, but they was not able to make the necessary arrangements before further Virus Restrictions were brought back in, preventing public meetings.

As a result, no AGM took place during 2020.

- 5 Under the Constitution, the AGM and Agenda must be advertised in the Newsletter.
Any changes to the Constitution must be published at least 30 days before the AGM
Sufficient time must be allowed for Members to consider any actions they many wish to take before the AGM.
- 6 The clear understanding has always been that only those present in person at the AGM may take part, in particular in voting to approve motions and to elect the committee.
There is no provision for postal voting, proxy voting, or remote voting or other types of participation.
- 7 The Committee have considered the possibility of holding an AGM via some electronic means.
This would be a major change, and would require member approval in advance.
- 8 The Constitution specifies that the AGM shall be held in Spring or Summer.
There is every reason to anticipate that it will be possible to hold a normal in-person AGM at some point during that period in 2021.

Hence the Committee will arrange the AGM to be held as soon as it is reasonably possible to make the necessary arrangements, taking account of the current level of government Virus Restriction.

- 9 It will be open for the Committee or members to propose changes to the Constitution to allow the holding of Virtual Meetings in the future. Should such proposals be put forward, then the Members at the AGM will have the opportunity to vote for or against such a proposal.
- 10 The Committee have conducted an Equalities Assessment of the option of a Virtual Meeting

This may be acceptable for an informal meeting, or one where there is nothing of controversy.

However there are issues over

- notifying all members effectively of the virtual meeting and how to take part;
- people being unable to gain access to a virtual meeting;
- being unable to cope with the computer demands of doing so;
- and of the possibility, practicality, propriety and suitability of having a meeting with items of controversy under such conditions.

The Committee are clear that there will be an in-person AGM during 2021, but that it would not be acceptable to hold a virtual AGM without advance approval from members.

CWRA Management
January 2021