



HALESWORTH & DISTRICT U3A AGM 2024

PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A REVISED CONSTITUTION

Our u3a has now reached the size where we are required to apply to the Charity Commission to become a registered charity.

To make the application process as straightforward as possible, the Third Age Trust (the national u3a umbrella body) has agreed a standard constitution which will be accepted by the Charity Commission without the need for further negotiation with individual u3as. Therefore, to avoid unnecessary complications, we would like to bring our current constitution into line with the national standard constitution.

Although the standard constitution is more formally worded than our u3a's current constitution, there is very little variation in its actual provisions. The only substantive changes in the new constitution relate to the terms of office of officers and other committee members. These are as follows:

- Our current constitution allows committee members to serve for a maximum of 8 years. The proposed constitution allows members to be on the committee for a maximum of 6 years, or up to 9 years if they step down for a year at some point.
- Concerning the Officers of the u3a (Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary): our current constitution allows someone to hold the same position for a maximum of 6 years. The proposed constitution would allow someone to serve in the same position for 6 years, or up to 9 years if they step down for a year at some stage.
- Similarly, committee members other than officers can have the same job on the committee for 6 years or up to 9 years if they step down for a year at some stage.

Your committee feels that in practice these changes will make very little difference and should cause our u3a no difficulties. **The executive committee therefore proposes that the revised constitution be adopted by the AGM**

The full texts of both the current constitution and the proposed new constitution are available on the Governance page of the Halesworth & District u3a website:

<https://halesworth.u3asite.uk>