

General Meetings of Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue

20th October 2024

Guidance notes relating to proposed changes to the Bye Laws And Articles of Association

Proposed Changes to Bye Laws

Bye Law

- 3.1: The proposed amendment enables any person to become a member of the Synagogue
- 3.2: The proposed amendment confirms that membership is available to individuals of any age and to family groups. It confirms that single-parent families with children under the age of 21 can be members.
- It also now provides for parents and their children above the age of 21 to be included as family members, and for a parent to pay the subscription fees of the adult children as part of their own subscription. (This will not affect the specific subscription payable by any individual member: subscriptions rates and liabilities are levied on each individual member (there is no subscription payable for children under 21 within a family membership group) and are within the remit of Council)
- The final amendment provides for family members who are aged between 18 and 21 to be entitled to vote at general meetings of the Community
- 3.3: This proposed amendment is a tidying up following the adoption of the amendments to Bye Laws 3.1 and 3.2
- 3.4: Similarly this amendment is a tidying up following the adoption of the amendments to Bye Laws 3.1 and 3.2
- 12.1: This proposed amendment follows on from the amendment at Bye Law 3.2 and results from a belief that it would be appropriate for our younger members to be able to have a say in the running of the Synagogue/Community
- 14.1.6 The deletion of the provision for the election of a junior warden is proposed by Council following difficulties in recent years in finding people wishing to commit to the three-year role of a warden. Discussions in the Services Committee resulted in a decision to form a committee of individuals prepared to volunteer to act as wardens from time to time, coordinated by one or two individuals, but without the specific commitment to attend services every week for 3 years. All the volunteers on the committee will be deemed Assistant Wardens. In the circumstances there will no longer a need to elect someone to stand as a warden.

- 18.2 The Bye Laws currently require a Council decision to spend more than £3000 in any one transaction, except for the usual outgoings. That figure was set many years ago and the proposed increase to £5000 is to take account of inflation in the interim
- 18.8 Similarly it is proposed to increase the limit to £500 on cheques and payments that must be signed/authorised by two Honorary Officers
- 19.1 This amendment is self-evident, and is in fact required this year as it is intended to appoint Joint Presidents
- 19.3 Council is proposing to reduce the term of office for a President from 5 years to 3 years
- 23 The amendment to Bye Law 23.1 follows on from the amendment at Bye Law 14.1.6. Bye Law 23.9 is now proposed to be deleted: if the amendments to Bye Law 14.1.6 and the remainder of Bye Law 23 are approved there will no longer be Senior, Middle and Junior Wardens

Proposed Change to the Articles of Association of the Synagogue

Under the Bye Laws the Community has to authorise an amendment to the Articles of Association of the Synagogue, hence this amendment and put to a general meeting of the Community.

As presently drafted Article 26.3.2 provides that an elected trustee must stand down from Council after 6 years unless, if the Trustee were not reappointed, the number of elected trustees would fall below 15. At the moment the Board comprises the honorary officers and up to 18 other elected members.

This year at least 2 members of Council would be required under Article 26.3.2 to stand down from Council having been Council members for 6 continuous years, but we have not received sufficient nominees to stand for Council to bring the number of Council members back to 18.

The proposed amendment will mean that a Council member who might otherwise be required to stand down after 6 years may put himself forward for re-election provided that no one else wishes to stand in his place.