

Edinburgh Association of Community Councils (EACC)

Report on Extraordinary General Meeting 17 February 2022

Purpose: to agree revision to the EACC Constitution.

Attendance

Screen meeting via Zoom. No formal record of attendance. Estimated number of attendees c. 30.
Office-Bearers present: Steve Kerr, Chair; Keith Giblett, Vice-Chair, Judy Wightman, Treasurer;
Simon Holledge, Secretary.

Preamble:

The Constitution was last revised in 2015.

At the November 2021 AGM, the Secretary tabled three proposed revisions:

(Finance) To remove a restriction on Office Bearer authority to sanction EACC expenditure capped at one-quarter of EACC income in any one year

(Office Bearers and Finance) To cut the notice period for nomination to Office Bearer at the AGM from 21 days to seven days prior to the AGM date.

(Alterations to the Constitution) To change the notice period for proposed alterations from 21 days to seven days prior to the AGM or to an EGM convened for the purpose of considering such a change.

The Chair indicated his wish to introduce wider proposals on change to the EACC structure. A wider raft of proposed changes was considered by a convened Steering Group. The proposed revisions were introduced at an EACC EGM on 20 January 2022 and, with some subsequent alteration, they were approved at an EGM on 17 February 2022.

Outline:

Principal changes to the Constitution:

<u>Running Order:</u>	
<u>2015 Document</u>	<u>2022 Document</u>
1. Name	1. Name
2. Membership	2. Aims and Objectives
3. Aims and Objectives	3. Membership
4. Business	4. Business
5. Finance	5. Finance
6. Office Bearers and Committee	6. Members, Board and Office Bearers
7. Voting	7. Elections and Voting
8. Alterations to the Constitution	8. Alterations to the Constitution
9. Dissolution of the EACC	9. Dissolution of the EACC

Main changes in detail and emphasis (2022 Document):

(2) Aims and Objectives:

A stronger expression of Community Council views and opinion;

(i) with City of Edinburgh Council (CEC),

(ii) within the Edinburgh Partnership (EP) forum and other city policy planning groups and

(iii) across city residents and businesses.

Better promotion of public participation and inclusivity in EACC business.

(6) Members, Board and Office Bearers:

Each Community Council is entitled to name a Community Councillor as its representative or designated EACC Member; he or she will normally carry that Community Council's vote at EACC meetings.

There will be an elected EACC Members Board to provide a wider management structure for work undertaken on policy issues arising from engagement with CEC, EP and other parties.

The EACC Members Board will comprise the named Office Bearers plus from five up to twelve elected Community Councillors.

The EACC Members Board may co-opt up to five other Community Councillors.

The EACC Members Board will stand down at the annual AGM but each member will be eligible for re-election.

The EACC representative on the EP will normally be the EACC Chair or an Office Bearer.

(7) Elections and Voting:

A Community Council's designated 'EACC Member' carries that Council's vote. The Community Council may nominate a substitute to exercise its vote at a meeting by advising the Secretary not less than 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Office Bearers and other members of the EACC Members Board are elected by eligible Community Council representatives at the EACC by way of successive rounds of voting to match number of candidates with number of vacant positions.

Nominations for Office Bearers and for other positions on the EACC Members Board are to be submitted to the Secretary not less than 14 days before the AGM (changed from 21 days).

(8) Alterations to the Constitution

Alterations take place at an AGM or EGM. The wording of any proposed alteration is to be submitted to the Secretary 42 days prior to the meeting (changed from 21 days).

Approval

An initial revised wording of the 2015 Constitution was discussed at the 20 January 2022 EACC EGM; recommendations were made for additional changes. Specifically, amendments were made to the size of the EACC Members Board (now Office Bearers plus from five up to twelve Community Councillors, with provision for a further five co-opted appointments).

With the further revisions in place, the new Constitution was approved and passed as adopted without opposition at the 17 February EGM.

Postscript

Para. 4c: Business

There is no change in the procedure for altering at any EACC meeting the Standing Orders for the conduct of business.

Report compiled by

Ken Robertson
EACC Acting Secretary

8 September 2022