

# Hampshire Genealogical Society

## Proposal for the future Management of HGS

Hampshire Genealogical Society (HGS) is currently operating without a Chairman. Since the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2025, the Vice Chairman has been undertaking the duties and responsibilities of both Chairman and Vice Chairman.

At the beginning of the year, HGS had eleven Trustees. Following the resignation of Steve Cull on 6 January 2026, this number was reduced to ten. More recently, both the Treasurer and the Vice Chairman have indicated that they will not be standing for re-election, either as Officers or as Trustees, at the AGM in May 2026. Consequently, after the AGM the Society will have only eight Trustees. If no additional Trustees are elected at that meeting, the Society may face constitutional difficulties and may also struggle to conduct its business effectively.

In light of these challenges—and recognising the significant difficulties previously experienced in recruiting a Treasurer, together with the ongoing absence of a Chairman and a shortage of volunteers willing to act as Trustees—we propose that changes be made to the Constitution. These changes would provide HGS with greater flexibility while continuing to ensure appropriate standards of governance.

In addition, a small number of minor spelling, grammatical, and consistency errors should be corrected.

### Proposed Amendments

To provide HGS with greater flexibility and resilience, it is proposed that the Constitution be amended to reflect the following:

1. The Society shall be managed by an Executive Committee consisting of not more than thirteen, but not less than five, Trustees of the Society. The Executive Committee shall include a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer as Principal Officers.
2. A quorum of the Executive Committee shall consist of at least 60% of the number of current Trustees, one of whom must be a Principal Officer.
3. Other individuals may be co-opted onto the Executive Committee; however, such co-opted members shall not have voting rights and shall not be included in the number of Trustees used to determine a quorum.
4. In the absence of a Treasurer, responsibility for financial management shall be delegated to a Finance Committee.
5. The Finance Committee shall consist of at least three Trustees, two of whom must be the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary or Treasurer. The Finance Committee may co-opt non-trustees or non-members to assist in the management of the financial function.
6. In the event that an urgent decision is required by the Executive Committee, Trustees may vote on a proposal by indicating their approval or otherwise via email. The total number of responses received (whether in favour or against) must still meet the 60% quorum requirement based on the current number of Trustee