

GENERAL SYNOD

**THE CHURCH REPRESENTATION RULES (AMENDMENT) [(No. 1)]
RESOLUTION 2014**

Introduction

1. The Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution [(No.1)] 2014¹ ('the Resolution') was introduced at the February 2014 group of sessions on the instructions of the Archbishops' Council to give effect to changes proposed to the Church Representation Rules ('the CRRs') by the Archbishops' Council's Simplification Group.
2. The background to the proposals embodied in the Resolution was set out in more detail in the Report of the Simplification Group (GS Misc 1048) laid before the Synod in July 2013. The effect of the Resolution was explained in detail in the Explanatory Memorandum (GS 1940X) provided for the February 2014 group of sessions.
3. The Resolution was considered at the February 2014 group of sessions under the 'One Motion Procedure'. The Synod having passed the preliminary motion that the Resolution '*be considered*', a number of amendments were then moved, six of which were carried. However, the Synod then resolved that debate on the motion for the approval of the Resolution as amended '*be adjourned and resumed at the July 2014 group of sessions*'.

The effect of the amendments made to the Resolution

4. The effect of the amendments made to the Resolution by the Synod in February were as follows:

Original proposal	Amendment carried
<i>CRR Appendix II, paragraph 2:</i>	
Reduce minimum number of PCC meetings required in a year from four to one .	Reduce minimum number of PCC meetings required in a year from four to two .
-	The first of the two statutory meetings must not take place within four weeks of the annual parochial church meeting.

¹ The Resolution as originally introduced was entitled 'The Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2014'; the suffix "(No.1)" has been tentatively included in the title subsequently because of the possibility that the Synod may approve two resolutions amending the CRRs in 2014, with the consequent need to distinguish between them.

Original proposal	Amendment carried
-	But that constraint only applies in a case where a PCC proposes to hold <u>only</u> two meetings in the year.
-	And a meeting held solely for the purpose of appointing or electing any officers of the PCC or the members of its standing committee does not count for any of the above purposes.
<i>CRR Appendix II, paragraph 4(a):</i>	
Remove, without replacing it by anything else, the current requirement for the manner in which notice of PCC meetings is to be given (ie by posting a notice specifying the time and place of the meeting at or near the principal door of every church, or building licensed for public worship, in the parish).	Replace the current requirement with one that notice must be given in such form (whether printed or electronic) as, in the opinion of the chairman of the PCC or the persons convening the meeting, is likely to enable persons whose names are entered on the roll of the parish to discover that the meeting is to be held.
<i>CRR Appendix II, paragraph 6:</i>	
Remove the requirement that three-quarters of the members present at a PCC meeting must agree to an item that had not previously been specified in the agenda being transacted at the meeting.	Leave the current requirement in place.

5. On a show of hands, the Synod voted **not** to accept a further amendment which would have had the effect of deleting paragraph 6 of the Resolution. Thus the Resolution will continue to include a provision amending paragraph 14(a) of Appendix II by (a) removing the current requirement that the standing committee of a PCC must consist of not fewer than five persons, including the minister and churchwardens *ex officio*, and (b) replacing it with a requirement that only the minister and churchwardens must be members. But the PCC will continue to be able to appoint additional members if it wishes – and should do so where that is desirable for any reason – eg because there is a vacancy in the office of churchwarden.
6. Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the Annex to this paper show the forms that paragraphs 2, 4 and 14 of Appendix II CRRs will respectively take if amended by the Resolution.
7. As amended in February, and with consequential printing changes to the Notes, the Resolution will take the form shown in GS 1940A.

Other changes to be made to the CRRs by the Resolution

8. In addition to the changes to the present position described in the table in paragraph 4 above, the Resolution will make a number of other amendments to the CRRs, as follows:
- Paragraph 2 will repeal Rule 3, which currently imposes certain obligations on PCCs to notify other PCCs in connection with removals, and proposed removals, from church electoral rolls.
 - Paragraph 5 will repeal paragraph 7 of Appendix II, which requires business at a PCC meeting to be transacted in the order specified in the agenda unless the PCC resolves otherwise.
 - Paragraph 7 will amend paragraph 15 of Appendix II so that the minister will not have to be an *ex officio* member of all committees established by the PCC but will be entitled to be a member if he or she so wishes.
 - Paragraph 8 will insert a new paragraph 15A in Appendix II expressly allowing a PCC to delegate functions to committees of the PCC.
 - Paragraph 9 will insert a new paragraph 16A in Appendix II allowing a PCC to regulate its own proceedings, subject to any specific requirements of the Rules or any other enactment.

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Part 1 – Paragraph 2 of Appendix II to the CRRs in the form it will take if amended by the Resolution

Meetings of Council

2. The council shall hold not less than ~~four meetings~~ two meetings in each year, the first of which shall not take place before the end of the period of four weeks beginning with the date of the annual meeting. Meetings shall be convened by the chairman ~~and if not more than four meetings are held they shall be at quarterly intervals so far as possible.~~ But the requirement that the first of the meetings in a year shall not take place before the end of the period of four weeks referred to applies only in a case where it is proposed to hold only two meetings in the year.

Part 2 – Paragraph 4 of Appendix II to the CRRs in the form it will take if amended by the Resolution

Notices relating to meetings

4. (a) Except as provided in paragraph 8 of this Appendix, at least ten clear days before any meeting of the council notice thereof specifying the time and place of the intended meeting ~~and signed by or on behalf of the chairman of the council or the persons convening the meeting shall be posted at or near the principal door of every church, or building licensed for public worship in the parish~~ shall be given in such form (whether printed or electronic) as, in the opinion of the chairman of the council or the persons convening the meeting, is likely to enable persons whose names are entered on the roll of the parish to discover that the meeting is to be held.
- (b) Not less than seven days before the meeting a notice thereof specifying the time and place of the meeting signed by or on behalf of the secretary shall be posted or delivered to every member of the council or, if the member has authorized the use of an electronic mail address, to that address. Such notice shall contain the agenda of the meeting including any motion or other business proposed by any member of the council of which notice has been received by the secretary. The notice required by this sub-paragraph shall not be required for a council meeting immediately following the annual parochial church meeting being a council meeting which has been called solely for the purpose of appointing or electing any officers of the council or the members of the standing committee thereof provided that the notice required by sub-paragraph (a) hereof has been given; and a council meeting called solely for that purpose is to be ignored for the purposes of paragraph 2.

(c) If for some good and sufficient reason the chairman, vice-chairman and secretary, or any two of them, consider that a convened meeting should be postponed, notice shall be given to every member of the council specifying a reconvened time and place within fourteen days of the postponed meeting.

Part 3 – Paragraph 14 of Appendix II to the CRRs in the form it will take if amended by the Resolution

Standing committee

14. (a) The council shall have a standing committee ~~consisting of not less than five persons~~. The minister and such of the churchwardens as are members of the council shall be ex-officio members of the standing committee, and the council ~~shall by resolution appoint at least two other members~~ **may by resolution appoint other members** of the standing committee from among its own members and may remove any person so appointed. Unless removed from office, ~~the appointed members~~ **appointed members** shall hold office from the date of their appointment until the conclusion of the next annual meeting of the parish.

(b) The standing committee shall have power to transact the business of the council between the meetings thereof subject to any directions given by the council.