

Rules On Elections (~~post Inaugural meeting 20th April 2010~~)

1 Election of Chair of the Authority

The election of the Chair of the Authority shall be the first item of business at the Annual Meeting and shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) not less than 14 days before the date of the Annual Meeting, the Chief Executive shall email or write to all Members calling for nominations in writing
- (b) to be valid, a nomination shall be in writing (including email) and contain a declaration by the candidate that they are willing to stand for election. For the avoidance of doubt, a Member shall be entitled to nominate him/herself
- (c) candidates shall be able to submit an election statement, in the form (if any) prescribed by the Chief Executive, for circulation
- (d) Members are requested to return nominations 2 days prior to the Annual Meeting, but the time for nominations shall remain open until the start of the Annual Meeting
- (e) at the start of the Annual Meeting the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) or his/her nominee shall preside for this first item of business
- (f) the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or Solicitor shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (g) the person presiding shall declare nominations closed and the Returning Officer shall announce the valid nominations which have been received
- (h) if only one nomination has been received, the person presiding shall declare that person duly elected and shall install them as Chair of the Authority
- (i) if more than one valid nomination has been received, the election shall proceed by ballot
- (j) the person presiding shall invite each candidate, or - if the candidate prefers - the person nominating the candidate, to address the meeting for not more than 2 minutes, in alphabetical order by surname.
- (k) once the candidates have addressed the meeting, the ballot shall be held without comment, question or debate
- (l) a secret ballot shall be held using the elimination ballot system as follows:
 - (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once votes have been cast
 - (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid.
 - (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the person presiding who shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the person presiding that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot

- (6) The person presiding shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
- (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall inform the person presiding who shall declare that candidate duly elected
- (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the person presiding shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes in that ballot, the matter shall be settled by the person presiding on the toss of a coin.

2 Election of Deputy Chair of the Authority

The election of the Deputy Chair of the Authority shall be the second item of business at the Annual Meeting and shall be conducted as follows:

- (a) the Chair shall preside and the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or Solicitor shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (b) the Chair shall call for nominations and shall ask each candidate nominated whether they are willing to stand for election
- (c) for the avoidance of doubt, a Member shall be entitled to nominate him/herself
- (d) if only one nomination is received, the Chair shall declare that person duly elected and shall install them as Deputy Chair of the Authority
- (e) if more than one valid nomination is received, there shall be no election statements or addresses and the election shall proceed by ballot without comment, question or debate
- (f) a secret ballot shall be held using the elimination ballot system as follows:
 - (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once the vote has been cast
 - (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid.
 - (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the Chair who shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the Chair that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot
 - (6) The Chair shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
 - (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall inform the Chair who shall declare that candidate duly elected

- (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the Chair shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes in that ballot, the matter shall be settled by the Chairman on the toss of a coin.

3 Election of Chair of a Committee

The committees and sub-committees shall, at their first meeting following the Authority annual meeting, appoint from among their Members, a person to preside at the meetings of each committee and sub-committee, (*the Chair*) and a Member to preside in the absence of the Chair (*the Deputy Chair*). (excepting always the Standards Committee to which these provisions shall have no effect):

- (a) the Chief Executive (National Park Officer) or his/her nominee shall preside for this first item of business
- (b) the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or Solicitor shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (c) the person presiding at the meeting shall call for nominations and shall ask each candidate nominated whether they are willing to stand for election
- (d) for the avoidance of doubt, a Member shall be entitled to nominate him/herself
- (e) if only one nomination is received, the person presiding at the meeting shall declare that person duly elected
- (f) if more than one valid nomination is received, the meeting shall determine whether to proceed by show of hands or secret ballot.
- (g) there shall be no election statements or addresses and the election shall proceed by show of hands or ballot without comment, question or debate
- (h) if it is determined to hold a secret ballot, the elimination ballot system shall be used as follows:
 - (1) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote clearly for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall distribute the voting papers to Members and then collect them once the vote has been cast
 - (3) The Returning Officer shall examine the voting papers and shall sort them into parcels according to the votes recorded for each candidate, rejecting any that are invalid
 - (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Returning Officer shall inform the committee that a further ballot is required and the name of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, who shall be eliminated from the ballot
 - (6) The Returning Officer shall declare to the Annual Meeting the name of the candidate who is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates
 - (7) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Returning Officer shall declare that candidate duly elected

- (8) In the event of a tie or equality of votes in any ballot, for whatever cause, the person presiding at the meeting shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes in that ballot, the matter shall be settled by the person presiding on the toss of a coin.

4 Election of Deputy Chair of a Committee

At every meeting of a committee and sub-committee at which the question of the election of a Deputy Chair arises, the election shall be conducted as follows (excepting always the Standards Committee to which these provisions shall have no effect):

- (a) the Chair of the Committee shall preside and the Authority's Monitoring Officer, Deputy Monitoring Officer or Solicitor shall act as Returning Officer and shall be responsible for the election process
- (b) the Chair shall call for nominations and shall ask each candidate nominated whether they are willing to stand for election
- (c) if only one nomination is made, the Chair shall declare that person duly elected
- (d) if more than one valid nomination is received, the election shall proceed by show of hands using the elimination ballot system as follows:
 - (1) There shall be no election statements
 - (2) The Returning Officer shall invite Members to vote by raising their hand clearly, for one candidate only. Candidates shall be entitled to vote for themselves.
 - (3) The Chair shall call the vote for candidates in alphabetical order by surname
 - (4) If once the votes have been counted the candidate with the highest number of votes has secured more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, the Chair shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (5) If the candidate with the highest number of votes does not secure more than 50% of the number of votes cast, the Chair shall declare that the candidate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated from the ballot and shall call for a further ballot between the remaining candidates.
 - (6) This process of elimination shall continue until such time as a candidate secures the highest number of votes **AND** more than 50% or more of the number of votes cast, at which time the Chair shall declare that candidate duly elected
 - (7) In the event of a tie or equality of votes, for whatever cause, the Chair shall without comment, question or debate call for a further ballot. In the event of a further tie or equality of votes, the matter shall be settled by the Chair on the toss of a coin.