

Members and/or Associates, requiring them to convene a General Meeting the Council shall proceed to convene the same with all despatch

18(d) Upon all resolutions other than alterations of the Objects and Rules the votes of Members may be taken by post provided that only such votes as are received by the Council prior to the hour of the meeting or on or before the date specified on the voting form, shall be counted. In the case of voting by Overseas Members and the Australian Branch, a cablegram for or on behalf of more than one member shall be accepted as votes by the number of Members represented on the cable

DISCUSSION

MR BRAMSON —With regard to Rule 18(d), is there any provision made for verifying any postal communication received? I think we should guard against hoax or fraud

THE HON SECRETARY —I think that if a postal vote is allowed one has to run a slight risk of such cases, but I believe it very unlikely they would occur. We can verify the signatures of all members from their application forms

CAPT SAYERS —The usual method is to have a form which is sent out by the particular Society only to its members

MR WINGFIELD —Yes, that is the right procedure. I would like to propose that the Clause be amplified by the addition of the words “ on a form to be supplied by the Council ” between the word “ post ” and the word “ provided ” in line 2

(This amendment was carried unanimously)

MR BRAMSON —Regarding Rule 18(c) I think we should deal with another point. If I receive notice of a meeting and I also receive an agenda, I know that if I take the trouble I shall have the opportunity in debate of arguing on the subject if I am not in agreement with any particular point, and that I shall have an opportunity of appealing to all those who have to decide in the matter. With the postal vote I have no such opportunity, and a majority decision may be given which would have been altered if the point had been subjected to debate. Perhaps that can be dealt with by fixing a time of the notice which has to be given between the issuing of the agenda and the time of the meeting, which would give members who wished to do so an opportunity to canvass all members on the subject by post

THE HON SECRETARY —I think that is implied, because we have to give the Australian members six weeks. It might be desirable to include such a provision, but I question whether it is really necessary.

CAPTAIN SAYERS —I think perhaps it would be advisable to have such a provision, and therefore propose the addition of the following words at the end of Clause 18(c) “ fourteen days’ clear notice shall be given of any Annual or Extraordinary Meeting ”

(The amendment was carried unanimously.)

The question of the time limit for receipt of votes was discussed at some length, with particular regard to votes of overseas members, and it was finally decided that that clause should appear at the end of Rule 18(d) instead of in the place it at present occupied.

The CHAIRMAN then moved

THAT Clause 18(d) as follows, be added to the Rules

Upon all resolutions other than alteration of the Objects and Rules the votes of Members may be taken by post on a form to be supplied by the Council. In the case of voting by Overseas Members and the Australian Branch, a cablegram for and on behalf of more than one Member shall be accepted as votes by the number of Members represented on the cablegram. Only such votes as are received by the Council prior to the hour of the meeting or on or before the date specified on the voting form, shall be counted.

The motion was proposed by MR BRAMSON and seconded by CAPTAIN SAYERS and passed unanimously.

5 The election of Council members then took place, as a result of which the following were elected to the Council: Messrs M L Bramson, W V Gilbert, A F Houlberg, J C Savage, and L A Wingfield. The Chairman drew attention to the resignations of Messrs W O Manning and F R Simms from the Council, and it was noted that the name of Mr Simms appeared on several of the ballot papers under “ Any other nomination ”

THE HON SECRETARY —I should like to say here that Mr Simms has been the mainstay of the Institution for many years, and it was through him that the grants from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders were obtained. Mr Simms has been one of the most regular attendants at Council meetings, has taken keen interest in all questions arising, and much of the policy of the Institution has been directed by him. He resigned chiefly because Mr Manning did so, in order that Mr Manning should not be the only one connected with the Amalgamation Committee to resign. Mr Simms was, unfortunately, unable to be at the last Extraordinary Meeting.

THE CHAIRMAN¹ —I propose that a letter be sent to Mr Simms from this meeting asking if he will kindly serve again on the Council
(The proposal was passed unanimously with acclamation)

6 The following speech was then read by the CHAIRMAN

Gentlemen,—You have all received notice of this Extraordinary Meeting of Members of the Institution, together with a copy of the Agenda of the business to be dealt with to-night

As you are well aware, this meeting has been called to sanction those steps which in the opinion of the Council are necessary to enable the Institution to continue its active existence

For the last three years the Institution has been generously assisted by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Limited, which has given donations amounting to the sum of £400 towards making up the difference between income and expenditure. As this Society no longer sees its way to continue to support the Institution the Council have, as was announced at the last Extraordinary Meeting, agreed to try to carry on subject to the increase of subscription, though this increase of subscription will not be sufficient to provide the necessary funds unless there is also an increase in membership

From its foundation the Institution has had as a primary object the welfare of all branches of the aeronautical profession, and it seems desirable that a definite decision should be made as to what branches of the profession are eligible for membership, and the Council recommend that the Association Membership grade should be opened to many who have previously only been eligible for Associateship, admitting men of practical experience and ability, even though their theoretical knowledge may be limited and they have not had the advantage of a University education or its equivalent. On the other hand, the Council feel very strongly that the qualification of Membership should be reserved for those who have shown themselves to possess a high standard of technical knowledge, either by examination or by holding University qualifications

Consequently, the Council recommend that Associate Membership be available for those grades mentioned in the Agenda which you have received, and would point out that the examination for Ground Engineers is one requiring considerable practical knowledge to obtain even a pass. If any member wishes, he can see a specimen paper later on this evening

It is requested that any Associate Member who wishes to be regraded as a full member should send in a thesis on the work that he is doing, which will be considered by the Council, and if of sufficient merit will entitle the writer to regrading. It should be noted, however, that a high standard will be required

The cost of running the Institution, printing Proceedings, holding lectures, etc., can be seen from the published Balance Sheets to be about £600 per