

Minutes of a General Meeting of members of the Basic Income Earth Network (BIEN) held on Thursday 17th December 2020 at 12 noon Greenwich Mean Time (UTC+0)

The meeting was held on zoom on the basis of temporary permission given by the Charity Commission to hold meetings of members online until the 31st December 2020

Twenty-three members attended, but three were not present for the first vote, and two were not present for the second. Sarath Davala was in the chair.

Agenda:

1. Resolution: Proposal to amend the constitution: That the following should be added to paragraph 30 of BIEN's constitution:

In this constitution the expression 'meeting' includes, except where inconsistent with any legal obligation,

- a physical meeting
- a video conference, an internet video facility or similar electronic method allowing simultaneous visual and audio participation

Following discussion, a vote was taken:

For the resolution: 19; Against: 0; Abstentions: 1.

The resolution achieved a 75 per cent majority and so was passed.

2. Resolution: Proposal to amend BIEN's internal rules:

To rule 6 shall be added: If the General Assembly is held online rather than as a physical meeting then resolutions can be voted on electronically.

Rule 13 shall be amended as follows:

- a) 'Trustees shall be elected by both a postal ballot ...' will be replaced by 'Trustees shall be elected by both a postal or electronic ballot ...'
- b) 'Postal ballot papers shall be distributed at least 30 days before the AGM. Any individual who becomes a member after ballot papers have been distributed will be able to vote in person at the AGM, but will not be sent a postal ballot paper' will be replaced by 'Postal ballot papers and/or instructions for electronic ballots shall be distributed at least 30 days before the AGM. Any individual who becomes a member after ballot papers and instructions for electronic ballots have been distributed will be able to vote in person at the AGM, but will not be sent a postal ballot paper or instructions for electronic ballots'.

Following discussion, a vote was taken:

For the resolution: 20; Against: 1; Abstentions: 0.

The resolution achieved a 50 per cent majority and so was passed.

3. Questions: Two questions were asked:

Guy Standing asked about progress with plans for the 2021 congress in Glasgow. The Chair explained that plans were being made for a physical conference, an online conference, and a hybrid conference. The Executive Committee and the Local Organising Committee would be reviewing progress at their meeting following the meeting of members.

Philippe Van Parijs asked for clarification of the dates of the congress. The Chair explained that the four days would be within the period 18th to 22nd August 2020, and that precisely which days it would be would be confirmed soon.

4. The meeting closed at 12.22.