**Proposal to modify the Articles of Association of**

**NORTHAMPTON ABINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

**Dated 15th February 2020**

This proposal has the primary objective of modifying the voting at General meetings and a secondary objective of simplifying the classes of Membership of the Association

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Up till now it has been a requirement that anybody who wishes to belong to a Section must also be an individual Member of the Community Association

Apart from the Honorary Life Members, there are currently 3 classes of individual membership of the Community Association; these are :- Full Members (people who live within the “area of benefit”), Associate Members (people who do not live within the “area of benefit”) and Junior Members (aged 17 and under). Associate and Junior Members cannot vote at General meetings.

For Full and Associate Members, the membership subscription is £5 per annum and there is also an obligation to contribute a further £10 in the unlikely event that the Association is dissolved. The Association currently has a total membership of about 125.

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The current proposal is that people will be able to be members of a Section without also needing to be members of the Community Association.

Note that if people (aged 18 and above and living in the “area of benefit”) wish to be Full Members of the Community Association then of course they can, and by doing so they will retain their full voting rights at General Meetings. However, as there will be no point in being either an Associate or Junior Member, these classes of membership will be dissolved.

It will be important that Sections are represented at General Meetings, so every Section will be required to appoint Section Members to represent them. The number of Section Members appointed by a Section (probably between 1 and 4) will be determined by the Directors and will depend on the size of the Section. Section Members will have full voting rights at General Meetings.

Voting at General Meetings will therefore be primarily by Full Members and Section Members

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It is anticipated that, if this proposal is adopted, the membership of the Association will probably reduce to less than about 15, and therefore the total income from their subscriptions will be reduced – possibly by up to £550 per annum. This income will have to be restored by increasing the cost of room hire.

It should be noted, however, that the income from the hire of rooms and membership subscriptions is currently not sufficient to cover the costs of running the Centre. Inevitably, therefore, hire charges for the rooms will have to be increased for the coming year. Thus, whether this proposal is agreed or not, the total costs to the Sections (and their members) will be higher than they are currently.

**Bob Leathersich**

**Director – Northampton Abington Community Association**