

Transferring Cherwell Canoe Club to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Introduction.

Last year's AGM mandated the Committee to register Cherwell Canoe Club Charitable Incorporated Organisation (The CIO) with the Charity Commission. This was completed on 27th February 2023 as Charity number 1201741. The Committee now propose to transfer the running of the Club to the new CIO.

A CIO is both a charity and an incorporated body so it has status in law. But unlike other forms of incorporated body it only has to report to the Charity Commission and not to Companies House. The CIO structure is fairly new and is designed specifically for small organisations such as our Club.

The CIO has been set up to keep the Committee running the Club day to day, and with a small number of Trustees so that there is little change from how we do things now.

Why Change?

We have been talking with Cherwell District Council, who own Woodgreen, and the management company about building a storage facility there and using the pool through the winter. This would involve a formal contract. The CIO can enter in to a contract but the existing Club cannot. Individual members would have to do that on behalf of the Club.

There are a number of advantages to running the Club as a CIO.

Advantages.

The CIO structure offers protection for members. For example, if the club was unable to pay it's bills under the contract it would be possible for members to be asked to pay. Under the CIO structure that cannot happen. Members have no liability, but Trustees must act reasonably.

As a charity the club may be considered more favourably by funders and have access to more grant funding.

The public image of the Club is improved as a charity.

Charities can run certain fundraising activities that may be banned or require a license for non-charities.

Although it is unlikely to help the Club yet, there are tax benefits to being a charity.

Disadvantages.

The Trustees must comply with charity law which is more demanding than the requirements for an unincorporated member's club.

More Information.

The Cherwell Canoe Club CIO Constitution closely follows the Charity Commission model. An Operational Code has been prepared to cover areas in the current club Constitution which are not in the CIO Constitution. The CIO Constitution, the Operational Code and the existing Club Constitution are provided with this document.

3rd March 2023