

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 20 June, 2022

Present

See list held by the Membership Secretary.

Apologies

Paul Jones.

1. Opening the Meeting

Members were welcomed by the Chairman, Val Carmichael.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman told the meeting:

“This has been a mixed year since our ‘online AGM’ held in March 2021, while still in lockdown. Since then our Executive Committee have continued to meet, initially on Zoom and then from August 2021, when we were able to meet face to face.

Also in August we held our “welcome back” General Meeting, after a period of nearly eighteen months. It was lovely to see so many members attending the meeting, happy to meet up with friends again.

In September we celebrated our belated 10th Anniversary. Our speaker for the occasion was Anne Widdecombe, who, apart from giving a witty and interesting talk, kindly cut our celebration cake.

In December was our annual Christmas Party, with some rather different entertainment!!! This year our General Meetings have continued with a variety of speakers and subjects.

It is at this point that I would like to thank a number of people who, without them, this u3a would not be possible.

My thanks go to all our Group Leaders, who give their time unstintingly to the members of their group. To the Committee for all their support, hard work and dedication. I would particularly like to thank those members standing down at the AGM, and especially Paul Jones, who has been a Committee member from the beginning and co-instigator in the inauguration of our u3a, along with our Honorary President,

Cliff Bennett. To all our stewards, signing-in ladies and refreshment volunteers, we could not do without you”.

In conclusion, the new Committee will now start planning for the year ahead, and hope you, our members, will continue to enjoy being part of Ivybridge u3a”.

3. Minutes of the previous A.G.M.

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 (virtual, because of Covid, and postponed from October 2020) were agreed as read.

4. Financial Report and Accounts

The following financial report for the period 2020-22 was given by the Honorary Treasurer, Christine Smith. There were no questions on the accounts that had been presented.

“This year’s accounts reflect the change we have made to our financial year end and cover a period of nineteen months.

Generally speaking, our costs have risen in line with inflation with a couple of notable exceptions. The absence of monthly meetings has meant that all our newsletters have been posted leading to a significant rise in postage expenses. Our welcome back meeting in August last year and our belated anniversary celebrations contributed to increased catering costs and holding a postal AGM (which we had a legal obligation to do) increased both our printing and postage costs. Overall, however, and despite the constraints and uncertainties that we have been experiencing we are in a fairly strong financial position.

All of which might make it strange that, as I promised in last year’s report, we are going to put up subscriptions next year to £18 per person with a reduced rate of £14 for members who belong to another U3A.

In the past year The Third Age Trust has implemented the promised increase in the cost of membership, up from £3.50 to £4 and the cost of mailing the Third Age Matters magazine has increased from £3.10 to £3.40. This year we have the funds to absorb the increases (as we did previous increases in the magazine mailing costs when it went up from £2.40) but from next year subscription income will be needed. Also, in the coming year we hope to go onto the Beacon system at last which will cost us £1 per member and postage costs are almost certainly going to continue to rise.

The last increase was made in 2014 and I hope you will all agree that membership still remains remarkable value for money.

Finally, I would like to thank Stephen Woodcock for once again checking our accounts and acting as our Independent Examiner. I am indebted to him, as always.”

5. Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Examiner

The reappointment of Stephen Woodcock as Independent Examiner was proposed by Michael Bailey and seconded by Raymond Waudby. Vote was taken by a show of hands and the motion was carried, *nem con*.

6. Election of Honorary President for 2022-23

Sylvia Rutley proposed and Ray Waudby seconded the re-election of Cliff Bennett as Honorary President. The vote, by a show of hands, was carried *nem con*.

7/8. Election of new Committee

Nine persons in total had been duly nominated and seconded and since this did not exceed the number of places on the committee, the Chairman asked the meeting if they would agree to a simplified procedure by which they would be elected *en bloc*. That procedural motion, proposed by Philippa Swain and seconded by Jane Roberts, was passed, *nem con*. The vote then taken to elect the nine candidates was passed by a show of hands.

The committee for the year 2022-23 will therefore comprise:

Val Carmichael

Vanessa Day

Madeline Gibson

Stephen Harvey

Anne Kiddell

Graham Meaden

Christine Smith

Michael Swinson

Guy Yea.

Their first meeting would take place on Monday, 4 July 2022, at 2.30 pm.

9. Conclusion of business and date of next A.G.M.

The next A.G.M. would be held on Monday 19 June, 2023.

This concluded the formal business of the A.G.M.