

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 19 June 2023

Present

(Please see list held by the Membership Secretary).

1. Opening the Meeting

Members were welcomed to the meeting by the outgoing Chairman, Val Carmichael.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

The past year, Val said, had seen a distinct recovery in our membership numbers: as of 5th June, we had 389 members. This was down from our pre-covid membership level but the numbers continued to rise.

In February we had hosted a new members' coffee afternoon, which had been very lively and very well received. She said we would be holding another such afternoon later in the year.

Our Executive Committee had continued to meet on the first Monday of each month. Three new Committee members had joined us at the 2022 AGM: earlier this year another new member had been co-opted as Project Manager for the new online Beacon management system.

At our annual Christmas party in December we had been entertained by "Mad about Swing" (a dance duo) and by members of our own Guitar and Folk groups. The general meetings, held every third Monday of each month, continued to offer a variety of speakers and subjects, thanks to our Speaker Secretary.

A questionnaire had been circulated to members. The Chairman thanked those of the audience who had returned it and said the Committee would be collating the questions and suggestions in the next few weeks. They would answer some of the points made at one of our general meetings.

Particularly, at this point, she wanted to thank a number of people, without whom, she emphasised, this u3a would not be possible. These were: all the group leaders, who give their time unstintingly to the members of their groups - groups could not be formed and run without a group leader; the Committee, for all their support, hard work, dedication and fun (laughingly she said, "yes, we do have fun!"), particularly those of the Committee who were not standing for re-election this year, for their time and dedication to the Committee; and all the stewards, signing-in people and various volunteers we could not do without. "Thank you".

In conclusion, the Chairman said the new Committee would now start planning for the year ahead and hoped that all our members would continue to enjoy being part of Ivybridge u3a.

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

Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2022 as a true record was proposed by Beryl Naylor and seconded by Sylvia Rutley. The motion was agreed by a show of hands *nem. con.*

4. Financial Report and Accounts for 2022-23

Christine Smith, Honorary Treasurer, expanded on the information given in the accounts (copies, previously available, tabled):

The 2022-23 figures covered only the normal twelve-month period and were yet more evidence that things had been getting back to normal. Welcome as it was, however, this had made it difficult to compare these figures with those shown for last year, which not only covered 19 months but also were heavily influenced by the Covid pandemic.

The recovering membership numbers and the rise in membership fees had ensured that Ivybridge u3a remained comfortably 'in the black' despite the seemingly inevitable, but anticipated, rises by the Third Age Trust (for both our membership and the mailing of the TAM magazine) and the impending cost of implementing the Beacon management system. Generally speaking costs had risen in line with inflation compared to pre-pandemic levels and there was no cause for concern.

For those who might wonder why total receipts and payments were so much more than in the previous extended period, it was almost all down to increased activity in the groups, with the bottom line showing a modest increase of £1,721 in overall funds.

Finally, Christine thanked Stephen Woodcock for once again checking our accounts and acting as our Independent Examiner. Ivybridge u3a was, as always, indebted, to him.

No questions were raised on the accounts that had been presented.

5. Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Committee's recommendation that Stephen Woodcock be reappointed as Independent Examiner was ratified by a show of hands *nem. con.*

6. Election of Honorary President for 2023-24

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

7/8. Election of new Committee

Ten 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 the simplified procedure of electing them *en bloc*. That procedural motion, proposed by Raymond Waudby and seconded by Peter Brooks, was passed, *nem. con.* by a show of hands and the ten candidates were therefore duly elected.

The Committee for the year 2023-24 would therefore comprise:

Val Carmichael

Vanessa Day

Anne Kiddell

Graham Meaden

Christine Smith

Guy Yea

Ritsaert von Oven

Averil Heaton

Rhoda Lloyd

Paul Jones

Their first meeting would take place on Friday, 7 July 2023, at 2.30 pm.

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

The formal business of the A.G.M. thus concluded, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and introduced the speaker, Paul Reynolds, who, for the social period of the afternoon's programme, gave an illustrated talk on The Pubs of Dartmoor.

The next A.G.M. would take place on 17 June 2024 at 2.00 p.m.