

Ivybridge u3a

MINUTES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the banning of gatherings meant that the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for 19 October 2020, could not take place. Owing to the absence from our Constitution, of reference to the use of electronic methods of participation and the limitations of the technical expertise available, with the permission of the Charity Commission the business of the A.G.M. was carried out in the spring of 2021 entirely by post.

Notice of this having been given in December 2020, in mid-February all the information necessary for the A.G.M. was mailed to every member. Votes on the resolutions received by the deadline of 13 March were then collated and counted by the Chairman and Secretary and the results were recorded by the retiring committee on 15 March 2021.

Participants

By a count of voting papers and proxy votes received there were 195 participants, establishing the process/meeting as quorate. Papers had been numbered for monitoring purposes but the votes were anonymous.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (21 October 2019)

There were 187 votes for the motion, 0 against, 8 abstentions. The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were therefore agreed.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

This is quite an unusual Chairman's report, as it comes from two Chairmen! This past eighteen months since our last AGM in October 2019 has been an unprecedented and difficult time for all of us. We did however end 2019 with a very enjoyable Christmas party and continued to hold three General meetings at the beginning of 2020, before going in lockdown in late March. It has been good to see that although some of our groups have been able to meet online, no physical meetings are taking place, and yet our membership has increased. We should have been celebrating our 10th Anniversary in September last year, but unfortunately, we were unable to go ahead because of the COVID-19 situation. Fingers crossed we will celebrate this milestone in September this year. Our thanks go to our group leaders who have done such a marvellous job keeping in touch with their group members and encouraging their group, where possible to meet online. Without our group leaders we could not have become so successful a U3A. Thank you once again. The stewards who help at every general meeting including the coffee and tea at the end of each meeting, we could not do without you. We would also like to thank the 'back room crew', the committee, who have steered our U3A through the past difficult months, meeting every month online to ensure that we keep in touch with our members through newsletters, keeping in touch with our National office to ensure we are up to date with the COVID-19 situation and to organise this 'Postal AGM'. The committee is

indeed the backbone of Ivybridge U3A and each and every member of the committee plays an important part. We would also like to thank you the members for your support and patience at this time. We are all eager to get back to our groups and activities and meet up with the friends we have made through the U3A, so let us hope that we are able to do that as soon as possible.

Bea Naylor – Retired Chairman

Val Carmichael – Chairman 1st Jan 2021 –

3. Annual financial report and accounts

This has been an extraordinary year and our accounts reflect that. Last year many people renewed their membership before the end of the previous financial year, thereby inflating the membership income figure. This year's accounts show, in effect, the rump of renewals that fell due in October 2019 and no renewals for the year 2019/20 due to the extension of the membership year until 31 March 2021. From February 2020 there was much reduced activity in all areas specific to Ivybridge U3A and this is evident in the accounts. Only national commitments, such as Third Age Trust Membership and TAM magazine mailing costs remained at previous levels. Sundry Costs include committee expenses, a thank-you event for all Group Leader and helpers, a wreath for Remembrance Day and the cost of holding New Members coffee mornings. The membership fee for 2021/22 will remain unchanged but I will be proposing an increase in fees next year to cover the costs of adopting the Beacon Management System, to cover a previously introduced increase to direct mailing costs for the TAM magazine, and a rise in Third Trust Membership scheduled to take effect in 2022. Finally, I intend to change the financial year to bring us more in line with the fiscal year. This will mean that the next accounts will cover 1 September 2020 to 31 March 2022.

Christine Smith, Honorary Treasurer

Comments/Queries

One question had been received about the cost of the General Meetings, which had been resolved to the member's satisfaction).

4. Appointment of Stephen Woodcock as independent examiner

There were 189 votes for this resolution, 0 against, and 6 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

5 The inclusion in the Constitution of new clauses providing for the possibility of using electronic methods of participation for General Meetings if required

The text of the proposed new clauses and the reason for this resolution had been detailed in the papers circulated. In order for there to be a change to the Constitution, at least two-thirds of those voting at a quorate meeting had to be in favour.

There were 182 votes for the motion, 1 against, and 12 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried and the Constitution would be amended accordingly.

6. Election of Cliff Bennett as Honorary President for 2021

There were 190 votes for the motion, 0 against and 5 abstentions. The motion was therefore carried.

7. Election of the Executive Committee for 2020-21

Members had been given the option either to cast their vote for all 10 nominees, or to cast their vote for each candidate individually. Of the 195 members voting, 190 chose the first option. Among the remaining five members no-one voted against any of the candidates, although in 11 cases they abstained.

The new Committee for 2020-21 would therefore comprise:-

Cal Carmichael
John Deacon
Stephen Harvey
Averil Heaton
Paul Jones
Sylvia Rutley
Christine Smith
Philippa Swain
Michael Swinson.
Ray Waudby

Comments/Queries

Comments had been received to the effect that the opportunity of increased involvement offered by the postal process had been appreciated.

It was also noted that the number of people taking part (by submitting voting preferences) represented more than a 50% increase on those normally attending an A.G.M. in person, although some of this may have been due to the fact that membership renewal forms could be sent in at the same time.

The Secretary was asked to produce minutes for the A.G.M. from the above information and the Chairman would inform and congratulate the new members of the Committee.

Confirmation that the 2020 Annual General Meeting had been satisfactorily completed was proposed by Ray Waudby, seconded by John Deacon and agreed unanimously by the retiring Committee.