

Ivybridge U3A
MINUTES OF THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
held on 17 June 2024

Present

(Please see list held by the Membership Secretary)

Apologies

Apologies had been received from Christine Smith, Rhoda Lloyd and Ann Kiddell.

1. Welcome

Vanessa Day, as Chairperson, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their continuing support.

2. Chairperson's Annual Report

Looking back, 2023-24 had been a very busy year, Vanessa said. Membership numbers had increased to 421 from 389 at this time last year, and presently we had 43 active groups.

The Committee had carefully considered the replies to the questionnaire that had been circulated to find out what members thought of the present provision and what they would like to see more of. One response had been to dedicate a member of the Committee as organiser of day trips. The first of these trips had been to Bristol Christmas market in November 2023; then a visit had been organised to Rosemoor (one of the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens). Both had been well-supported. A boat trip to Calstock had now been scheduled to take place on 31st July, with 56 members enrolled to date. These trips would continue while there was support from the membership.

Other social events had included a cream tea, a cheese-and-wine evening (as a thank-you to group leaders/convenors and helpers for their work throughout the year) and a well-attended Christmas party with the entertainment entirely in-house. This had proved very successful, as there was much musical talent among our members and we hoped to do the same thing this year.

A basic life/de-fibrillator training course had been run in February, with 29 people attending. There were plans to run another in the near future for those on the waiting list.

Most of the information that members now received was sent electronically via the Beacon system, which had been showing its usefulness in many ways. A common complaint at all new members' meetings (there had been two in the last eight months) had always been the inability to join groups because they were full. Through Beacon it had been possible to set up robust waiting lists so that it could clearly be seen when there were enough people on a particular list to set up a new group. Beacon had also enabled us to send out a reminder each month with details of the speaker for the general meeting, leading to an increase in attendance. Vanessa was keen to assure those without computer technology, however, that we would continue to keep them informed by other means. Members had expressed particular appreciation of the talks this year.

We had continued to liaise with the Town Council on a variety of issues. Earlier this year we had been asked to send a representative from our u3a to sit on their steering group to help in the development of the local economic plan. In addition, each of our music groups had been invited to perform at the Council's 'Party in the Park' last month.

In conclusion, Vanessa expressed particular gratitude on behalf of everyone to the people without whom, she said, Ivybridge u3a would not exist, we could not do without them: the group leaders/convenors who gave their time and support to their groups; the Committee, for their hard work and the support they had given her; the signing-in people, and the various other volunteers.

The new Committee would now start planning for the coming year and hoped that members would continue to enjoy being part of the Ivybridge u3a.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Acceptance of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 June 2023 as a true record of the proceedings was proposed by Paul Jones and seconded by Raymond Waudby. They were agreed unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement

Thanks to the wonders of the Beacon system, the vast majority of the members have had time to look at the accounts this year, but some items need a little further explanation.

Overall, the financial position was satisfactory. The steadily rising membership had ensured that we had the funds to function as a u3a, but over the years a small but significant surplus had built up. Rather than let it sit in the bank, the Executive Committee had decided that we should organise events and trips that would appeal across the membership and it was this that has resulted in us having an operating loss.

People would no doubt have noticed that the Sundry Expenses are considerably more than last year. This is a catch-all heading which this year had included not only Committee costs and new members' coffee meetings, but also the defibrillator course, the CAB-run meeting about tackling scams, a summer cream tea and the thank-you evening for the Group Leaders and regular helpers at the monthly meetings. In addition, we had our inaugural trip to Bristol, which made a small loss, although it was anticipated that future trips would break even.

This year we also bought a CD player, a karaoke machine and a white board – all of which proved useful during the year and could be used by groups.

The Licence fee expenditure was the anticipated Beacon licence. The increase in the amount we had to pay for Speakers was, unfortunately, a sign of the times.

People would also have noted that, although our membership is rising, received fees appeared to have gone down. That was solely due to when people actually renewed their membership. Some did it the moment they received their Winter Newsletter, others waited until the beginning of April. It all evened out in the end.

Generally speaking, our other costs had risen in line with inflation or our increasing membership. The Treasurer did not consider there was any cause for concern.

Finally, the Treasurer conveyed her thanks to Stephen Woodcock for having, once again, checked our accounts and acted as our Independent Examiner. She was indebted to him, as always.

(Christine sent her apologies for not being present herself at the meeting, and her thanks to Graham Meaden for agreeing to read out her report).

5. The Ratification of the reappointment of Steven Woodcock as Independent Examiner

The motion was proposed by Guy Yea, seconded by Philippa Swain and passed by the meeting, *nem. con.*

6. Election of Committee

Vanessa thanked the retiring Committee members, Ann Kiddell and Rhoda Lloyd, for the work they had done and for all they had contributed during their term of office.

The remaining seven members of the Committee were willing to continue to serve on the Committee for the coming year. Since at that point only one new member, Roy Little, had been put forward, the number of candidates did not exceed the number of places available and it was suggested that the candidates be elected *en bloc*. This motion was proposed by Ray Waudby and seconded by Patricia Hamill and agreed by a show of hands, *nem. con.* so the nine people listed on the agenda were duly elected to serve for 2024-25. There remained one vacancy for the complement of 10 to be complete and Vanessa invited anyone who would later like to be considered for co-option to contact her.

7. Ratification of the reappointment of Cliff Bennett as Honorary President

The ratification of Cliff's reappointment as Honorary President, which had been proposed and seconded by members of the Committee, was endorsed by all those present. Ivybridge u3a had largely come into being because of his vision and effort those 14 years ago and we owed him an enormous debt, both for that and for all he had contributed since. In recognition of our gratitude, he was made the gift of Life Membership and was presented with a framed certificate in commemoration.

8. Closure of A.G.M.

The Chairman then closed the Annual General Meeting and commenced the business of the ordinary general meeting for October.