

THE CRANLEIGH AND DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the Twenty Fifth Annual General Meeting held at Cranleigh Methodist Church, 188 High Street, The Common, Cranleigh GU6 8RL on Tuesday 20 October 2021

Present: Committee - Veronica Barnard (Chair), Brian Allen, Maggie Atkins, Angela Hardman, Martin Hayton, Don Henderson, Dot Mariner, Jenny Sabin Caroline Todman, Barbara White and 94 members.

Apologies for Absence: Elaine Benson, Sheila Brown, Janet Buck, Christopher Bulley, Anthony and Penny Coles, Sue and Trevor Dale, Gill Ford, Risa Greenstein, Linda Koniotes, Jenny Lee, Caroline Lucas, Sue Martin, Jenny Marty, Peggy McManus, Mr and Mrs David Shelton, Jane Rawlings, Maria Thorpe, Russel Warburton, Steph Witt..

Chair Veronica Barnard opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. Veronica said that this was the 25th AGM of our u3a and, although there had been many changes over the past quarter century, some things remained very much the same: in particular, our lovely members, our amazing Group leaders and our Committee. Without these our u3a would not be here today.

Veronica referred to a number of her predecessors, including Dorothy and Russell Shearman, two founding members of our u3a, Gordon Hellyer, Chair 2002 - 2004 and Chris Barker, Chair from 2005 - 2007. Then, more recently, Veronica referred to Margaret Franklin, Sue Kariuki, Jean Bonham, Jane Barker and Graham Purssey. A rose was presented to each former Chair present.

[Post meeting note: we now understand our first Chair was Nevill, not Russell, Shearman]

1 Minutes of Meeting held on 2 November 2022

Veronica said that all members had been sent the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2022 and asked the meeting to approve those minutes.

The minutes of the 2 November 2022 meeting were approved unanimously.

Proposer Sue Kariuki, Seconder Brian Allen.

2 Chairman's Report for the period 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023.

The Chair first introduced the current members of our Committee and also welcomed Gill Nye. who, although not a member of the Committee, had been appointed our Assistant Treasurer.

Veronica said that this had been a good year for our u3a, with membership slowly returning to our pre-covid level, some new groups and some existing groups expanding to provide second sessions. We were keen to start further new Groups. Nevertheless, whilst increased membership and Group numbers were good news, these brought their own problems; in particular, the need for more Group leaders. This did not need to be a heavy, solitary role and many Group Leaders now shared the role.

Finally, Veronica referred to the work of the Committee over the last year drafting and amending policies drawn to our attention to aid and guide us in the running of our u3a. Specifically, Veronica referred to our new Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. Initially there had been some scepticism on the Committee as to whether we needed this. We were wrong. As part of that policy, we were required to appoint an Accessibility Officer, whose role was to ensure existing and new members could access our members' and Group meetings. Maggie Atkins had volunteered to take this role and we had been taken aback by the number of approaches which Maggie had received within just a few weeks. Veronica thanked Maggie for taking on this, clearly now, important role.

The Chair's Report for the period 1 September 2022 - 31 August 2023 was approved unanimously.

Proposer Jean Bonham, Seconder Belinda Martin.

3 Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 August 2023

(A copy of the Accounts had been circulated to members.)

Treasurer Martin Hayton began by thanking Roy Glasper for, once again, acting as Examiner for the Accounts. Roy's expertise and advice had been of enormous assistance to Martin.

Martin also added his thanks to Gill Nye, for taking on the role of Assistant Treasurer.

Martin said that this had been our second year using the new Beacon Finance system. We were happy to have made the switch to Beacon. Our accounts were more secure and the system was easy to operate.

Martin highlighted for the meeting the key points from the Accounts. He reminded the meeting that for 2022/23 we had increased our Membership Subscription by 25% to £20 per person, plus £3.50 for TAM. This brought our subscription back to the level of seven years ago, before we embarked on several years of significant reductions. Our membership had increased slightly this year, so our total income from Membership Subscription and Gift Aid was just over 26% higher than the previous year.

Income from Group activities increased by 74% compared with 2021/22 and Martin outlined the principal items leading to this result. Martin then outlined the principal items of expenditure for the year. The result was a net deficit for the year of £1,698. Consequently, our reserves reduced to £17,928, which was our target level. Going forward, we would be aiming to break even, or generate a small surplus.

Martin then answered questions from the members present.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 August 2023 was approved unanimously.

Proposer Helen Johnson, Seconder Barry Mursell.

4 Election of Officers

Veronica said that, sadly, we had lost one member of the Committee during the year and were now losing several more members of the Committee.

Don, Caroline and Jenny were standing down from the Committee. Graham had resigned from the Committee in September. Veronica thanked each of them for their work on the Committee and thanked Graham, who had led us as Chair until September.

The other current members of the Committee: Veronica Barnard, Brian Allen, Maggie Atkins, Angela Hardman, Martin Hayton, Dot Mariner and Barbara White, were willing to stand for re-election.

The said members were elected unanimously.

Proposer Amanda Pizer, Seconder Hilary Ball

5 Examiner for the Accounts

Veronica Barnard said that she wished to add her thanks to Roy Glasper for acting as our Accounts Examiner and was pleased to say that Roy had agreed to continue to be our Accounts Examiner.

The meeting unanimously approved the appointment of Roy Glasper as Examiner for the Accounts.

Proposer [] Seconder [] HELP!!

6 Any Other Business

There being no other business, Chair Veronica Barnard thanked everyone for coming and declared the meeting closed.