

Minutes of 2022 Annual General Meeting of Dulwich and District U3A (as approved at the 2023 AGM on 16 May 2023)

Thursday 26 May 2022 at 2pm at the Francis Peek Centre, Dulwich Park

48 members registered their attendance in person, including the following trustees: Angela Brown (Chair), Neil Abrahams (Vice-Chair), Richard Elliott (Secretary), Ruth Colvin (Treasurer), Keith Ball, David Beamish, Pam Cohen, Jane Coupe, Helen Graham, Caroline Knapp, Anne Sharpley, Maggie Smith.

A further 21 members attended via Zoom.

1. Apologies for absence: Peter Attwood, Rosemary Dawson, Di Deudney, Gerard Dickinson, Christine Frymann, Diana McInnes, Helen Robertson, Jane Smith, Mike & Fay Stirling, Jenny Strong, Patricia & Anthony Verity.

2. Approval of minutes of last AGM held via Zoom on 18 May 2021.

It was noted that in item 7 Richard Elliott's name was incorrectly shown as Elliot. Subject to that correction the 2021 minutes were approved and accepted: proposed by Helen Graham, seconded by Martin Goffe.

3. Trustees' Annual Report presented by the Chair.

Angela Brown presented her report which had been made available to members in advance. It is also available in print and online on the cover of the [Activity Reports for 2021–22](#). She thanked all those who had contributed to the document and especially Neil Abrahams who had put it together. She noted that Dulwich & District u3a had had a very productive year in terms of strengthening our offer, and in particular in:

- Promoting inclusivity and diversity
- Expanding our range of interest groups
- Enhancing and adding to our premises
- Updating and improving the design of our methods of communication and administration
- Advancing our members' digital skills
- Promoting our activity programme.

All this had happened because of the vision and industry of many members, the present committee and the interest group convenors but also many others:

- The members of the inclusivity and diversity sub-committee
- Members who had helped with refreshments and had sewn bunting
- Helpers at the fairs (Dulwich Park on 5 September & 15 May, Carnegie Library on 5 March, and Goose Green on 22 May)
- Members who had printed and distributed the Newsletter and posters
- Diana McInnes, who had organised the use of Rosebery Lodge from the beginning and continued to do so
- And Roman Bednarz and Verity Mosenthal, who had left the committee but continued to be active in supporting us.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2022/23 accounts

Nick Merriman had acted as independent examiner for the 2021/22 accounting year, for which he had signed off the draft accounts as received. His appointment as independent examiner for 2022/23 was unanimously approved: proposed by Neil Abrahams, seconded by David Beamish.

5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts

Ruth Colvin presented the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022, which had been [made available to members in advance](#).

Michael Colvin had submitted a question: why had expenditure on "Licences" risen from zero in 2020/21 to £1,081 in 2021/22? The answer was that the "Licences" category had not been used in previous accounts. It covered use of the Third Age Trust's Beacon package for membership and accounting, Mailchimp, and the renewal of the domain name (dulwich-u3a.uk) for the Dulwich & District u3a website.

The accounts were adopted unanimously: proposed by Anne Sharpley, seconded by Jane Coupe.

6. Election of Officers and new Trustees for 2022/23

The following nominations had been received:

Secretary: Richard Elliott, proposed by Margo Sheridan, seconded by Peter Attwood

Treasurer: Ruth Colvin, proposed by Lyn Agle, seconded by Christine Hinton.

New Trustees:

Julia Bairstow, proposed by Max Fishel, seconded by Ruby Douek

Tim Pagan, proposed by Karen Chessell, seconded by Christine Hensby

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An additional nomination was made at the meeting: Christine Hensby, proposed by Karen Chessell, seconded by Tim Pagan.

All these nominations were unanimously accepted.

It was noted that Keith Ball, David Beamish, Jane Coupe, Caroline Knapp, Helen Robertson, Anne Sharpley and Maggie Smith would be continuing as trustees.

There were still two vacancies, as the maximum number of trustees permitted was 15.

Under the terms of the Dulwich & District u3a Constitution, in the absence of a nomination for Chair it would fall to the trustees to appoint a Chair (as well as the Vice-Chair provided for in the Constitution). The trustees also had power to co-opt to fill vacancies.

7. Resolution for amendments to the Constitution

Anne Sharpley summarised the proposed Constitution changes, [notified to members with the notice of the Annual General Meeting](#) at least 14 days beforehand (as required by the Constitution), and explained that they were the same as those approved at the 2021 Annual General Meeting, but which had not been brought into effect as the Charity Commission's tight timetable for notifying amendments had been missed.

A motion to approve the changes to the Constitution proposed by the trustees was moved by Anne Sharpley and seconded by Sandra Tait, and approved unanimously.

Pam Cohen asked who would chair the next trustee meeting. The answer was that it was for the trustees to decide.

Liz Day said that it was unfortunate that no Chair had been elected, as the Chair's role was much more than just chairing meetings: it was important to have someone to grasp the organisation by the collar and move it forward.

Verity Mosenthal expressed warm thanks to Anne Sharpley for her sterling work in tidying up the Constitution.

8. Any other business

Angela Brown thanked the members of the Committee who were standing down, noting that all would be continuing to support Dulwich & District u3a:

- Neil Abrahams had served on the Committee for six years, carrying out countless tasks and, since the start of the pandemic, being “Mr Zoom”, which he had agreed to continue doing. He was also responsible for putting together the recently published *Activity Reports for 2021–22*.
- Pam Cohen was standing down after two years but would continue to be a member of the inclusivity and diversity sub-committee.
- Di Deudney had stood down during the year but was continuing to design our documents, ensuring that they had style and panache.
- Helen Graham had served on the Committee for six years, and would continue to be a Convenor.
- Sandra Tait had served on the Committee for four years. She had organised meetings for new members, online “coffee mornings”, and support for members with hearing impairment. She would continue to lead on celebrating the 40th anniversary of the u3a in the UK.

Karen Chessell asked whether she could nominate at this stage a candidate for Chair, and proposed David Beamish. He responded by saying that he had not put himself forward as Chair as he had taken on other roles, and someone else could have more time to devote to the role. But he did not rule out serving as Chair or Vice-Chair if that was the wish of the other trustees.

Neil Abrahams expressed warm thanks to Angela Brown for all that she had achieved in her two years as Chair.

The meeting closed at 2.55pm.

The AGM was followed by refreshments and magic performed by Dulwich & District u3a member Barrie Westwell “The Illusioneer”.