

# Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting of Dulwich & District U3A

Monday 20 May 2019 at Herne Hill Baptist Church, SE24 9HU

1. **Executive Committee.** The Committee introduced themselves and explained their current roles.
2. **Apologies:** Diana McInnes, Helen Graham.
3. **Minutes of 2018 AGM:**
  - a. Correction: The name of Lore Arthur had been omitted from committee members who had stood down last year.
  - b. Minutes adopted: proposed by Jackie Howell and seconded by Ruth Watson.
4. **Chair's Report:** Liz Day summarised her written report which had been circulated in the AGM brochure and which was on the web site. She highlighted the facts that there were now over 1000 U3A's; our involvement in the South East Network and U3A London Region. U3A is volunteer led and dependent on the involvement of its members. She paid tribute to the Conveners without whom our U3A would not be able to exist and asked for any members who might have a special interest of skill to consider becoming a group Convener.
5. **Treasurer's Report:** Verity Mosenthal presented the accounts for the year. She explained that the accounts were in a healthy state which had enabled us to reduce the membership subscriptions.
  - a. In response to questions she explained that Network Payments represented money which had been held on behalf of South East Network as shown in her note 2 of the accounts. Asked about the reserve fund account, it was earning interest, as shown in note 5. Asked about the large balance being held, this may be necessary for costs associated with hiring premises, supporting new and existing groups, seed funding, and equipment. The subscription had been reduced for the current year. The healthy balance was also due to the unknown expenses and income when the group was set up 5 years ago when the subscription level was first set.
  - b. The accounts were adopted: proposed by Caroline Knapp and seconded by Rona Black.
6. **Motion:** To amend the constitution changing the maximum length of service for the Chair and Secretary from 6 to 3 years in line with the model constitution from the Third Age Trust.
  - a. Roman Bednarz proposed this as an individual member, not as a committee member. He felt that this would lead to a greater diversity of membership involvement and encourage more members to come forward. Others maintained that it was unnecessary and there was already a shortage of volunteers to fill the present committee. A new constitution was also being considered due to possible changes in the charity status of D&D U3A. After a lengthy discussion with all sides being given the opportunity to comment, a vote was taken. A constitutional change requires a 2/3 majority of those 'present and voting'

At the meeting the voting was declared 64 in favour; 19 against; 16 abstentions (total 99). 64 out of 99 was less than 2/3, therefore the motion was announced as defeated.

*[Subsequently advice has been taken from the Third Age Trust National Office that 'abstentions' do not count as votes. Hence the corrected vote is therefore 77% in favour. Thus the motion is carried.]*
7. **Appointment of Officers:** The following officers were elected:  
**Chair** - Liz Day; **Treasurer** - Verity Mosenthal; **Secretary** - Roman Bednarz.  
**Committee members:** Neil Abrahams, David Beamish (new); Rona Black (new); Susan Elias, Helen Graham, Joy Harris, Sandra Tait (new);  
**Standing down:** Graham Ashton, Angela Brown, Diana McInnes, Pamela Ruben, Melinda Tennant-Flowers.
8. The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.