



## **Draft minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting of Dulwich and District u3a (for approval at 2025 AGM)**

**Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 2.15 pm at the Herne Hill Baptist Church, Half Moon Lane, SE24 9HU**

The meeting was attended by 72 members, including the following trustees: Tim Pagan (Chair), Christine Hensby (Secretary), Ruth Colvin (Treasurer), Neil Abrahams, Julia Bairstow, Keith Ball, Karen Chessell, Jane Coupe, Caroline Knapp, Sheila Northover and Helen Robertson.

### **1. Welcome and apologies for absence**

Tim Pagan welcomed members to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received from: Diana Bell, Roman Bednarz, Di Deudney, Gerard Dickinson, John Grimwood, Marilyn Hall, Barbara Kern, and Anne Sharpley.

### **2. Approval of minutes of the last AGM held on 16 May 2023**

The 2023 minutes were approved unanimously.

### **3. Trustees' Annual Report for year ending 31 March 2024, presented by the Chair**

Tim Pagan presented the Annual Report, which had been made available to members in advance, and reported that Dulwich and District u3a continues to thrive with 772 members and more than 80 convenors. The organisation's financial position remained strong and the Trustees had decided to reduce the level of subscription from £15 to £10 for 2024/25.

He noted that the following trustees were standing down at the AGM: Jane Coupe as Membership Secretary and Trustee, and Ruth Colvin as Treasurer and Trustee.

Dulwich & District u3a had had a very productive year which included:

- The development of two policies: a Code of Conduct policy and a Complaints and Disciplinary Policy
- The production of a Legitimate Interest Assessment and an Environmental Guidance Note

- An audit of Dulwich and District u3a assets
- The introduction of a new logo and the adoption of the official u3a brand guidelines
- SCID's continued work on inclusivity and the diversity
- Work on a new directory (available imminently)
- The development of a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary brochure.

There had also been several events during the year:

- A summer party at Bell House
- A festive quiz at St Barnabas
- A festive lunch at Sydenham Hill Golf Club
- A stall at Carnegie Library Christmas fair
- A visit by Liz Thackray, u3a National Chair

The Chair extended his thanks to members and convenors without whom our u3a would not exist; to trustees, the newsletter and publishing teams, the catering team, and the Rosebery Lodge team, with thanks also to Neil Abrahams, Di Deudney, Christine Hensby, for their work on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary brochure.

#### **4. Appointment of Independent Examiner for 2024/25 accounts**

Alistair Milliken had acted as Independent Examiner for the 2023/24 accounting year, for which he had signed off the draft accounts. The Chair asked the meeting to approve his appointment as Independent Examiner for 2024/25 and he was duly appointed unanimously.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Annual Accounts**

Ruth Colvin presented her report and the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024, which had been made available to members in advance. It was noted that funds had increased from £17,634 to £23,471 over the year. Part of these funds had been placed in a fixed term account running until November 2024 at an interest rate of 3.6%.

She expressed her thanks for the support she had received from Anne Sharpley during her term of office as Treasurer.

A question was raised as to why, given Dulwich and District u3a's strong financial position, Dulwich and District u3a was not spending more money on activities for the members. Tim Pagan said this was an area that the Committee would be exploring including grants for groups and education-related events. Money had already been allocated for a 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and the production of documents. The trustees welcomed further

ideas for events and activities from members.

The Accounts were adopted with one abstention and no objections.

## 6. **Election of Officers and Trustees**

The following nominations had been received and had been made available to members in advance:

**Chair:** Tim Pagan, proposed by Pat Boddy, seconded by Catherine Wheatley

**Secretary:** Christine Hensby, proposed by Richard Elliott, seconded by Maggie Smith

**Treasurer:** Keith Ball, proposed by Cynthia Anderson, seconded by Gerard Dickinson

**Trustee for re-election:** Caroline Knapp, proposed by Roman Bednarz, seconded by Gordon Harkess

**New Trustee:** Danny Friedman, proposed by Caroline Ghazaros, seconded by Tony Robertson-Jones

All candidates were unanimously elected.

## 7. **Fit for the Future**

Tim Pagan provided a brief update on the Third Age Trust's initiative, Fit for the Future. The Trust was developing proposals for a smaller Trust Board concentrating on governance and finance and the introduction of an elected council to highlight issues of concern to u3as and ways of addressing them. Next steps were to adjust the proposals in May in the light of feedback received from u3as prior to making a decision in June on putting a resolution to the AGM in October.

## 8. **Any other business**

Tim Pagan said there were additional copies of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary brochure available in the hall and foyer, which members were welcome to take away to distribute to friends and neighbours who might be interested in learning more about Dulwich and District u3a.

Robert Holden proposed thanks to the Trustees for their work for Dulwich and District u3a and this was applauded by the meeting. He also asked that his talk '7 o'clock and Not A Baby Bathed – The Story of a Lambeth Midwife' be considered for a Dulwich and District u3a monthly meeting.

Thanks were also extended to the Chair for his hard work throughout the year.