

EPSOM & EWELL UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Bourne Hall, Ewell on
Monday, 1st October 2018 at 10.30am

1. **Welcome**

The Chairman, Linda Hollands, opened the meeting by welcoming 114 members to the AGM.

2. **Apologies for absence:**

Dilys Anscomb, Maureen Asker, Hazel Bamford, Cicely Beresford, Janice Cheetham, Sheila Ferguson, Chris Rae and Jenny Sparrow.

3. **Minutes of the 2017 AGM**

The minutes of the previous AGM held on 2nd October 2017 were taken as read and were unanimously approved.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman read out the Committee's Review of the year's activities. 2018 had been a very busy year for the Executive Committee. Not only had this been the 30th anniversary but the adoption of the General Data Protection Regulation had created a lot of additional work. The membership database was being migrated to Beacon, a software programme supported by the Third Age Trust. The Committee had spent a considerable amount of time formalising its policies and procedures which had built a solid foundation for the future. These were now available on the website. She thanked the Committee for their hard work in getting to this stage and expected life to be a lot easier going forward. She also recorded appreciation of those volunteers who took on specific tasks that contributed to the smooth running of the U3A.

She highlighted the need to recruit shadows for the current officers so that they could take over and maintain continuity when several of the committee completed their terms in 2019. She concluded by saying that it would be a great pity if the 30th Anniversary lunch marked our demise and emphasised that without a committee the U3A would cease to exist.

It was agreed unanimously to adopt the Committee's Report which would be reproduced in full on the website.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Sally Topping, presented Financial Statements for the year ended 31 July 2018. She noted that, as a result of consultations between the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission, all U3As had been advised to include all of their activities as charitable activities including social ones which were previously accounted for separately. The 2018 accounts had therefore combined the main activities and the social activities. The Committee had agreed that all group surpluses would be ring-fenced for those activities only, so these funds were shown as restricted funds.

Membership numbers had increased resulting in both higher income from subscriptions and increased costs for the capitation fee, national magazine, and printing, postage and stationery. Printing and stationery costs were also higher this year as each member had been sent a special booklet to commemorate the 30th anniversary. Because of the additional costs incurred for the 30th anniversary celebrations the Committee had decided to discontinue paying grants to groups in 2017/18. There was a deficit of £831 on the charity's main and group activities and a small surplus of £408 was made on social activities. At 31 July 2018 the accumulated funds were £21,910. The Treasurer confirmed that the subscriptions for 2018/19 and 2019/20 would be frozen at their current levels.

The meeting voted unanimously to adopt the Accounts.

6. **Election of Officers and Committee**

The majority of the current Committee Members had yet to complete their terms of office. It was noted that Michael Dunk and Vinod Sharma had resigned from the Committee during the year. James Hadley was prepared to stand for re-election as a Committee Member and, having been duly proposed and seconded, was elected for one year.

There had been no proposals for new Committee Members nor was any member in the audience prepared to put themselves forward for the Committee.

7. **Election of Auditor**

Victor Collier was standing down as Independent Examiner. The Chairman thanked him for auditing the accounts for the past four years. The Committee were seeking a replacement. The meeting voted unanimously to authorize the Committee to appoint an Independent Examiner for the ensuing year.

8. **Changes to the Constitution of Epsom and Ewell U3A**

A change to the object clause of the Constitution was being proposed on the advice of the Charity Commission following discussions with the Third Age Trust. It was also proposed to take the opportunity to make some further amendments relating to the composition of the Executive Committee and to make it clear that all members of the Executive Committee with voting rights were Trustees. Accordingly the following special resolutions which required a two-thirds majority were put to the members and passed unanimously:

Special resolution 1:

The membership of Epsom & Ewell U3A hereby resolves:

To change the object clause to:

3. *Charitable Purpose*

The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work in Epsom and Ewell and its surrounding locality by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.

Special resolution 2:

The membership of Epsom & Ewell U3A hereby resolves:

To delete clauses 6(i) and 6(ii) and replace them with the following:

6(i) *Honorary Officers*

At the Annual General Meeting of The U3A the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chairman, a vice-chairman, a secretary and a treasurer who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting. In the event of no nominations or insufficient nominations being received for any of these posts, a majority decision can be taken by the members present at the Annual General Meeting to ask the retiring Officer/s to stay in office until the next A.G.M.

6(ii) *Executive Committee*

The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than 8 and not more than 12 members being:

(a) the honorary officers specified in the preceding clause

(b) not less than 4 and not more than 8 members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

To add a new clause:

6(iv) *All members of the Executive Committee with voting rights are Trustees.*

and renumber the subsequent clauses.

9. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 11.58 and was followed by a talk on the Plight of the Bumblebee given by Dr Nikki Gammans from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.