

Grange & District U3A

Minutes of the Grange & District Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Held remotely via electronic and postal means between 18 May and 01 June 2021

Introduction

As in 2020 the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Grange & District U3A could not be held in person because of the continuing lockdown imposed by HM Government

Therefore, it was decided to use the same process as that employed in 2020, i.e. a combination

Online voting was conducted using the LimeSurvey survey tool configured such that each member could only vote once. Furthermore, for a vote to be valid the name of the member had to be provided.

The total number of valid votes cast online was 67 (down from 111 in 2020) and there were 9 valid postal votes; (down from 13 in 2020). Please note that not every member voted in all categories.

Malcolm Kimber acted as independent scrutineer of the votes cast.

Outcome of AGM 2021

1 Apologies - Not applicable

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were accepted by a margin of 74 votes

3 Matters Arising

None

4 Chairman's Report

The following is the Chairman's report circulated to members prior to the AGM

When I took over as chairman of our u3a last July, we had group meetings restarting - in accordance with covid rules - and my notes tell me that in my role as speaker - finder, I had agreed to ask prospective speakers if they would be prepared to use zoom!

How dramatically things changed in the Autumn. Zoom meetings began in September and by December many of you requested two a month. We have had some excellent and interesting speakers, who have talked to us from all over the country - one of the few benefits of the situation. Another, for me, has been the opportunity to meet so many of you and to see your names on screen! It has been good to have that interaction between us, which is such an uplifting part of u3a life in Grange.

Our thanks are due to Chrissy Ogilvie for taking on the role of Zoom Mistress and for so efficiently and successfully hosting our meetings.

Membership has remained buoyant. Our fees have been reduced slightly to reflect the changing circumstances in which we find ourselves and we have gained new members, which is excellent. A very warm welcome to you if this is your first AGM.

Many indoor groups have continued to meet and thrive, using Zoom. Writing, discussion and language groups in particular have found it a very useful platform for meetings and indeed some will continue to use a mix of face to face and on line during the coming months.

Outdoor groups, such as walking, cycling, geology and bowls are restarting and a big thank you is due to all our Group Leaders who have had a challenging year, adapting to changing guidelines.

In these very difficult months, we have sadly lost several members, who will be sorely missed but I know that help and friendship has been offered where it has been needed. The connections we have made through the u3a will hopefully flourish when we can meet again face to face.

On behalf of you all, I would like to thank all the members of the Committee and in particular those who are retiring this year – Elisabeth Harrison and Roger Handley. Roger has worked for the u3a in various roles over many years and will be greatly missed on committee and by us all - particularly for his tireless work this year on the weekly 'Update.'

In addition, the tenure of Susan Jones, our excellent membership secretary, on the committee is at an end. However, I'm delighted to report that Susan is happy to stand for re-election

It has been a privilege to have been chairman since last Summer and due to the kindness of you, the membership and the help of my fellow committee - members, in particular Ged Jones our excellent secretary, I have survived, still smiling, to pass on the baton.

The u3a ethos is ' Learn, Laugh, Live ' and I hope that even during this horrible year, your u3a has enabled us all to go some way in achieving these goals.

Hilary Wade.

5 Audited accounts

The signed, audited accounts for 2020/2021 were circulated to members prior to the AGM.

The signed, audited accounts were accepted by a margin of 72 votes

6 Elections to the Executive committee

Election of Officers

Chairman

The post of Chairman became vacant upon the resignation of Hilary Wade.

Brian Loader was nominated as Chairman:

Proposed: Andrew Platt

Seconded: Ged Jones

Brian Loader was elected unopposed to the post of Chairman.

Vice-Chairman

The post of Vice-Chairman became vacant upon the resignation of Brian Loader.

Hilary Wade was nominated as Vice-Chairman:

Proposed: Andrew Platt

Seconded: Ged Jones

Brian was elected unopposed to the post of Vice-Chairman.

Election of Executive Committee Members

As a consequence of the expiration of terms of office there were three vacancies on the Executive Committee for which there were four nominees an election. Members were asked to vote for a maximum of three candidates. The nominees (in alphabetical order were):

John Eakins:

Proposed: Gerard Jones

Seconded: Susan Jones

John received 65 votes.

Stuart Fairbrother:

Proposed: Michael McCormick

Seconded: Ged Jones

Stuart received 25 votes.

Susan Jones:

Proposed: Ged Jones

Seconded: Liz Armitage

Susan received 74 votes

Stuart received 25 votes.

Tricia Thomas:

Proposed: Roger Handley

Seconded: Ged Jones

Tricia received 56 votes

Therefore John Eakins, Susan Jones and Tricia Thomas were elected to the Executive Committee

Appointment of Auditor

Dr Tony Harrison is the auditor for Grange & District u3a.

7 Constitutional Changes

i

Change article 6, section ii from:

Executive Committee

ii. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 9 members being:

a) the Honorary Officers specified in the preceding Clause

b) not less than 1 and not more than 5 members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

to:

Executive Committee

ii. The Executive Committee shall consist of not less than **7** and not more than **11** members being:

a) the Honorary Officers specified in the preceding Clause

b) not less than **3** and not more than **7** members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.

This constitutional change was accepted by 67 votes.

ii

Change article 8, section iii from:

There shall be a quorum when at least one third of the numbers of members of the Executive Committee for the time being or three members of the Executive Committee whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting

to:

There shall be a quorum when at least one half of the numbers of members of the Executive Committee for the time being or five members of the Executive Committee whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting

This constitutional change was accepted by 72 votes.

8 Any Other Business

One member suggested that a Treasurer's report should have been issued with the accounts.

One member stated that they thought the Zoom general meetings had worked well with some excellent speakers and asked whether these could be continued as a supplement to face-to-face meetings (if and when these resume) especially in the winter months.