

## Havant u3a

**Minutes of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting which took place at the Bedhampton Community Centre starting at 2:10 pm on Thursday 21st September 2023.**

**Present:** The AGM was attended by 107 members. Apologies were received from Geoff Worthington, Carol Cooper and Ingrid Corrigan.

**1 Welcome.** Elizabeth Jorge welcomed everyone to the 11th Annual General Meeting of Havant u3a.

**2 Minutes** of the 10th AGM, which took place on 15th September 2022 had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted as drawn (proposed by Alison Coleshill and seconded by Judith Worley).

### **3 Chair's Report – Elizabeth Jorge.**

Elizabeth apologised there were no paper copies of the AGM papers but each member had previously been sent the papers either via email or by post. Unfortunately, Geoff Worthington who had printed copies for distribution at the meeting had been taken into hospital. Elizabeth then read her report:

As I come to the end of my first year as Chair of Havant u3a I would like to reflect on the events and activities of the past year. It has been a privilege to work with a capable Committee team. Their commitment and hard work have ensured the continuing success of Havant u3a and I would like to thank them all for their efforts. My special thanks to Peter Newman, our Secretary and Vice-Chair, for his efficiency and willingness to cover for my absences.

2022/23 was another successful year for Havant u3a with our membership increasing by 11% from 278 to 310.

However, rising costs has meant that we had to increase our membership fees from £15 to £18, which incidentally, was our pre- pandemic fee.

At the February 2023 EGM, our members voted in favour of a change to the constitution which enables the Chair and Secretary roles to be occupied by the same person for a maximum of 6 years.

Our interest groups under the overall coordination of Bob Child have continued to flourish, with new groups being established and some older ones expanded. Tai-Chi and Strollers groups were started, a second Bus Pass Group, a third Sociable Singles group and a second Learning by Art Group were created. However, as some conveners retired some groups have folded or put on hold till a new convener is found. We will continue to look for volunteers to lead these groups and establish new ones.

A big thank you to our group conveners as they selflessly put so much time and effort in running our groups. The success of Havant u3a is in no small part due to them.

Our special thanks to Ken Arkell who has led the bus pass group for the past 11 years. He is retiring but handing the baton to Carol Hudson who he has coached over the past months. Ken's enthusiasm and joie de vivre has made the Bus Pass group one of our most successful groups.

Our monthly programme of talks under John West's leadership has continued to stimulate, educate, and entertain us through a wide variety of topics. John's choice of speakers has been well received with increased monthly meetings attendance.

Our special thanks to Ann Cutler who, for eleven years, maintained the refreshment supplies for the monthly meetings and other events. She has now relinquished this role and Alison Coleshill has agreed to take it over.

In our quest to offer more choices to our members, John West has started a series of special talks by senior personalities. At the first on 10<sup>th</sup> May at St Thomas Church we heard High Court Judge Sarah Munro KC talk about her career and the work of a high court judge. It was well received with many attending from neighbouring u3as. The next talk on 3<sup>rd</sup> November will be by Lord David Richards of Herstmonceux, former Chief of the Imperial General Staff. It is hoped to run 2 - 3 special events each year.

Our Social Sub-committee comprising Peter Newman, John West, Margaret Stanger, Fran McQueen and Martin Owen have worked tirelessly to ensure that our social events are interesting, value for money and, run smoothly.

At our Christmas Party we were entertained by soprano Jennifer Parker-Lummis and at our Summer Party by the Folks in Harmony choir. Both were very well received.

A Volunteers Tea Party was held at the Brookfield Hotel to express our gratitude to the selfless and enthusiastic volunteers that lead our interest groups, front of house services, the Committee and many others that help behind the scenes.

Two successful Quiz nights were led by Martin Owen and Peter Newman.

Val Worthington has worked tirelessly in organising five Coach Day Trips this year. We visited Petworth House, Oxford, Bournemouth, Beaulieu, and Salisbury. We are greatly indebted to Val for her sterling efforts and look forward to more outings in 2024.

Additionally, two new trips were offered to our members. One to the Houses of Parliament courtesy of our local MP, Alan Mak and the other to the Old Bailey, hosted by Judge Sarah Munro KC.

As we increase our range of activities, so does the workload of our Treasurer. Margaret Stanger has been kept very busy collecting not only membership fees but also fees for more outings and social events. I hope that the purchase of a new card reader will make her workload lighter.

Thank you to Fran McQueen, our external publicity officer, for ensuring Havant u3a participation in local community events to raise Havant u3a profile and to recruit new members. These included the Wellbeing Fair in Emsworth, the Bedhampton Show and the Manor Fair.

Fran and Geoff Worthington have been responsible for updating Havant u3a publicity materials and making it available at key locations.

A national Site Builder crash affected our website resulting in the loss of vast amounts of data and photos. We are grateful to Geoff Worthington who patiently recovered most of the information, rationalised the website and for his ongoing management of the site.

During 2024 Geoff will be leading the migration of our current Site Builder website to the new SiteWorks with the help of John Hume.

As a volunteer organisation, Havant u3a is run by members for members. We employ no staff; everything is run by volunteers in the most cost-effective way. So, if you can offer your time, enthusiasm, and skills to run a group, serve on the Committee or help in any other way, please get in touch. We look forward to welcoming you. We can not thrive and adapt without you. And don't forget to let your friends know about how much fun you are having as a member of Havant u3a.

The motto of the u3a is "Learn, Laugh, Live". We certainly provide many opportunities for our members to learn and many opportunities to laugh. By contrast measuring success of "Live" is quite difficult. But I hope that the friendships you make and participation in our activities plays a large part in your enjoyment of Life.

Thanks to our members for their continued support and I look forward to them joining Havant u3a Learning, Laughing and Living journey in 2023/24.

#### **4 Financial Report by the Treasurer**

Margaret Stanger read her report:

Our eleventh-year membership continued to recover from the pandemic and rose to 311 including many new members. The main source of income was 2022/23 subscriptions, and the gift aid recovered from the previous year. Group members paid for their group expenses (including their venue hire) as the groups are self-supporting. Attendees paid an appropriate price to cover the cost of events and trips. Regular expenditure was capitation payments to the U3A Trust, magazine mailing costs, licences and the cost of monthly meetings.

On the surface, it looks as if we had a slight loss of £130.58. However, on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023, we were holding £360 for the Old Bailey Trip and several groups had collected money towards next terms activities, as can be seen from the Groups and Trips report. On the whole, the social activities broke even or better.

At the financial year end (31st July 2023), the total balance held was £5,034.08. £944.71 of this balance was surpluses on social activities and is to be used for running social events rather than the general running of the U3A. A further £1,661.75 has been rolled over from last year by the activity groups and is ring fenced for them. Unrestricted funds on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 were £2,427.62, as opposed to £3,356.64 on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2022.

The Committee have reviewed income and expected expenditure and will review it again next year. Our costs rose last year and are expected to rise this year so we had to increase our membership subscription for 2023/24 to £18 for full members and £12 for associate members.

The Executive Committee have set a policy to maintain a balance on "unrestricted funds" (if possible) that equates to twelve months of operational costs. The surplus will allow Havant U3A to honour its obligations even if the membership was severely reduced and some of the existing groups folded. Havant U3A would still have to

pay speakers, capitation, hall hire, expenses, U3A News, licences, equipment maintenance and carry a working float.

Risk assessments continue to be undertaken to identify major risks and appropriate procedures are put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact. The committee and convenors have taken on board advice from the Government and the Third Age Trust to minimise risk.

The Treasurer's Report was approved without comment by the meeting (proposed by John Worley and seconded by Chris Evans). The accounts statement was approved without comment by the meeting (proposed by Peter Hellowell and seconded by Trish Mercer).

#### **5 Election of Officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer**

The Chair explained that the Constitution of the Havant u3a requires all officers and members of the committee to resign at the end of the year and to seek re-election if they are eligible under the rules. Elizabeth asked Peter Newman to conduct the election of the Chair and Elizabeth Jorge conducted the election of the Secretary and Treasurer roles. Prior to the election of the Chair, Peter Newman asked the members to show their appreciation for Elizabeth's efforts during 2022/23. No nominations for the committee had been received save for those already serving on the existing committee. The following nominations had been received prior to the meeting.

<b>Post</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
Chair	Elizabeth Jorge	Judith Worley	Miriam Norris
Secretary	Peter Newman	Jenny Bishop	Robert van Westarp.
Treasurer	Margaret Stanger	Lorna Clarke	Jill van Westarp

The meeting voted to accept unanimously all three nominations and they were duly elected.

#### **6 Election of other Committee members.** The following nominations had been received before the meeting.

<b>Post</b>	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Second</b>
Committee	Tom Hudson	Ken Arkell	Marilyn Hoad
Committee	Robert Child	Sharon Holden	Jan Jenkins
Committee	Carol Cooper	Valerie Pither	Christine Webb
Committee	John West	Denise Bennett	Peter Hellowell
Committee	Alison White	Ann Cutler	Anne Moule
Committee	Fran McQueen	Janet Wright	Helen Stevens
Committee	Martin Owen	Alison Coleshill	Linda Bird
Committee	Geoff Worthington	Janice Denham	Teresa Flowers

The meeting voted unanimously to accept all 8 of the nominations and they were duly elected.

#### **7 Any Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting closed at 2:50 pm